

BECKHAM, T. E.

Sent to D. C. + Nelson + Thorne ✓

9192

D T.E. BECKHAM (original 77 file)

note: Charter info on Abundant Life
Church is in Old Society file

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

6-22-62
(2970381)

The following FBI record, NUMBER 731 441 D

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Santa Maria Calif	Thomas Edward Beckham #23395	7-26-60	runaway juvenile	rel to prob dept
<u>Post Stockade</u> <u>Camp Leroy Johnson</u> <u>New Orleans La</u>	Thomas Edward Beckham #---	12-1-61	Inquiry	
<u>Post Stockade</u> <u>Ft Leonard Wood Mo</u>	Thomas Edward Beckham #25 510 331	2-8-61	Inquiry	detained
SO Oueba La	Thomas E. Beckham #9694	7-23-61	vag Investigation of GL	
PD New Orleans La	Thomas Edward Beckham #108350	6-14-62	simple rape contributing to the del of a Juvenile	Aff-175-341
PD New Orleans, La.	Thomas Beckham	11-14-62	Vag inv theft by trickery	Aff Refused

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

District Attorney Jim Garrison
New Orleans
Louisiana

Important

Mr. Garrison:

The following account may be fiction or it may be fact, I dare not commit myself by trying to substantiate it. The story was told to me in bits and pieces over a period of three months by a man, whom, I admit, has very little credibility to his character. The only reason I take the time to relate this to you, is because it is now past the realm of coincidence.

I fully realize the consequences of my actions, and so therefore I am prepared to co-operate with your office to the fullest extent, if you think the information I have warrants it.

Naturally, what I refer to is the Kennedy assassination.

It is hard to know where to begin, because the beginning was years before I had occasion to come upon this information. This is the story, the best I can relate to you:

It seems that back in 1960 and 1961 a group of men in this country began collecting money for a so-called invasion force into Cuba. This "army" was prepared to attack and capture Castro's Cuba in an invasion sponsored by the CIA. This is common knowledge, but what is not so well known, is WHY THE INVASION FAILED! As the information was given to me, a few of the leaders of the anti-Castro force in this country decided to flee the country with a good deal of the funds collected from the sympathizers of the Cuban refugees. These men whom I will name later, were arrested in the Miami airport with the money in their possession. The arresting officers, members of the CIA, confiscated the money, amounting to almost three million dollars. Then, as the story goes, President Kennedy, feeling that he had been duped, and would be left holding the bag, and.... realizing the international consequences of such an invasion, pulled the air support that had been generally committed. This, of course, led to the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion.

Since most of the 1400 or more invasion members were either killed or captured, the Cuban leaders in this country put most of the blame upon President Kennedy himself. I feel that I have evidence, though admittedly hearsay, that can prove this course of events.

I was told this story by a man who allegedly was a part of the Cuban revolutionary movement in this country. He claims to have been one of those arrested at Miami. Also he claims to have been under FBI investigation at various times. I was in Omaha Nebraska at the time this

*Crissman
d.
Backman*

was told to me, and at about the same time, as I'm sure you remember, your office was trying to get Perry Russo's girl friend, Mrs. McBlaine or something to that effect, down to New Orleans for questioning. It seemed rather strange to me that she would wind up in Omaha since she really had no people there. Also, WHY did the gentleman when I quote decide to come to Omaha? He had no job there, no relatives, and no real desire to find either. He moved to Omaha in March from Lincoln Nebraska, where he had spent about two months on life with no visible means of support. He had just previously been in the State of Washington with an associate of his.

The following are a few facts that the Omaha man told me, either directly or indirectly;

He told me about the pilot named Ferrie long before your office announced your interest in him. He described the man in great detail and claimed to know him personally. He also predicted his demise.

I overheard numerous telephone conversations (mostly with the man in Washington) in which he asked with great concern whether it was the FBI, the CIA, or who, that had been asking questions about them, and whether it was that they had something on him or on "one of the others".

He claimed to have either known or had met the Mr. Shaw you questioned.

He was originally from New Orleans, and claims to have worked on your staff at one time as an investigator.

He says he saw Oswald in New Orleans. Also a man who "looked like Ruby".

Backman (?) *Crissman*
At one time, the Omaha man and the Washington man met in a hotel there and discussed plans to go to New Orleans to see a man called Sergio Arcacha. They went, but could not find him or another man they said was there. Three days later, the local Newspapers announced that you, too had been looking for Mr. Arcacha for questioning and that he had told you he would talk to you, but not alone.

He described the assassination scene in great detail and told me some facts about it that I had definitely not heard before.

He claims that Oswald was a patsy, a setup, to take the blame for the whole thing. Also that OSWALD WAS A HOMOSEXUAL like Shaw, Ferrie, Tippett (Dallas police officer) and a score of others.

He told me about the motorcycle police officer who claimed to have seen a man with a rifle run from the Grassy knoll in front of Kennedy. (Incidentally, The Omaha man claims that this is where the fatal shot came from) The police officer mysteriously had a very serious accident right after the incident, and now is a near idiot.

He claimed to have met the late President on a number of occasions, and he talked about him with very little respect.

He claims that he left Louisiana upon the advice of the Governor.

The Omaha Man and the Washington man were always in telephone contact with each other, no matter where they were. Once, the Washington man was in Washington D.C. for some reason or another and they conferred by telephone twice in that one day.

The following is a list of the names for the story above. If you feel that any of them fit into a proper place, or into your current investigation, Please contact us so we can further discuss this.

1. Sergio Arcacha

2. Lucian Rebel *Lucian Rebel*

3. Fred L. Crisman *WASH.*

4. Thomas E. Beckham *Omaha*

5. Martin Grassi

Mr Garrison, perhaps this is all hogwash. I really do not know. I can go into more detail on all of this, and I have the addresses of those mentioned above. I would come to New Orleans myself, but I do not have the necessary finances. Also, I would have to be assured of protection, at least to the best of your ability.

I have arranged to be reached through the Democratic chairman here, Mr Thomas Reagan 101 Woodbridge Way, Mesquite, Texas. His Telephone Number is: AT 5-4573

If the information I have related to you here is of any consequence, contact Mr. Reagan, and he will contact me.

Good luck in your investigation.

Mr. _____

Re: T. Beckham

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY MEL GAUMER OF KTAC NEWS WITH FRED LEE CRISMAN AND ROBERT GRIFFIN (TACOMA, WASH., ATTORNEY REPRESENTING CRISMAN) - (NOVEMBER 1, 1968)

EX.7

A. I heard your broadcast.

Q. Oh, yeah, you heard the broadcast, sure. And MURRAY MORSE of course, is on our staff, actually as a freelancer but he and I work together and, you know, fooled around with thing all night. What I'm primarily interested in is what you have to say. I'm trying to -- I'll try to be completely fair and objective. I'm not trying to crucify anybody. But this is a story, let's face it.

A. Most of it is absolutely untrue and has no relationship to the real thing at all and consequently I'm real unhappy with it. But insofar as the Garrison subpoena what he particularly, what he alleges is that I know people that feels has some pertinent knowledge to the assassination. I don't even know what people he's talking about.

Q. Maybe I can -- maybe I can inject a name here that I got this morning for what it's worth. And as I say, believe me FRED, as of yesterday at this time I knew nothing about the thing except what I had read about the Garrison investigation in the past. I have a lot more information than I had the how much of it is fact and how much of it is fantasy, I don't know. One name that I had is TOM BECKHAM. He also goes by the name EVANS, MARK EVANS.

A. He had two or three million hit sellers, in the record business.

Q. All right. TOM BECKHAM as I understand it is under indictment in New Orleans.

A. No, I talked to him on the telephone this morning. He's in Omaha, Nebraska. They had an indictment for him for running a school of some kind back in Des Moines, Iowa, but they dropped it.

Q. Well, the information that I got from New Orleans today, and as you know I did not use this, and I hadn't used it up to this point. I got this information. And I know there are some other newspeople who probably have the same information -- that TOM BECKHAM was actually in jail in Des Moines, Iowa, in connection with a school fraud of some sort. I may add that I have called Des Moines. I used to operate a radio station in Ft. Madison, so I know Iowa.

A. All I know is TOM called me today on the telephone. He wanted to know what was going on about this thing breaking this way. And I told him that I had heard on the radio. And he said, no, after that the indictment was dropped three months ago.

Q. Well this I can check out. One of the problems that I've run into today that you're probably aware of is this is All Saints Day and New Orleans is a very Catholic town, consequently, Garrison's office is closed. So I couldn't get there. All the county offices -- they call them parishes -- are closed. It's a parish in New Orleans, rather than a county. I also have this piece of information that I'd like to have some more information on. I understand that you have or you did in the past file articles on incorporation for a School of Criminology.

A. No, BECKHAM did. All I did was write the courses for it.

Q. Were you involved as a corporate officer?

A. Oh, yeah, yeah.

Q. Well, at this point, I wasn't -- these are all matters of record.

A. (While BECKHAM was here he filed about six corporations, all of them non-profit stuff. Some of them I wrote some of the stuff for, some of them I didn't.)

Q. All right, let me ask you this, FRED. As I understand it the subpoena from the Grand Jury down there is for the 21st of November at 10:00 in the morning. Have you been served with a subpoena yet?

A. No, I've had no official word whatsoever.

Q. Now, FRED, -- and this I don't use as part of the tape -- I'm asking you for information. In the State of Washington, who would serve that? How would this be handled? Do you know? This is a county . Would this be served by the local Sheriff

A. The local Sheriff -- you can quote this -- if the local Sheriff serves it, the State of Louisiana itself does not have subpoena power over a Washington resident. Now if it comes through a Federal court, if there's a Federal question or had a -- there's only one way Louisiana could get a witness down there -- that is their State -- would be either to have extradition or to have Federal Court.

Q. I understand this Grand Jury is not a Federal Grand Jury.

A. No.

(inaudible)

Q. You have to have extradition papers cleared on a thing of this kind.

B. I think that I would advise my client -- I have not advised him, I haven't even consulted him -- but I think I would advise him that if he's got nothing to hide, if he were served a subpoena and they furnished him the necessary fees to get down there, and his expenses to get down there and back, he's got nothing to hide to go down and back free. So there would be no inference of any type of guilt on behalf of my client.

Q. What about you, FRED?

A. I would go down there under those conditions.

(inaudible)

Q. As I say, these are things that should come on the record.

A. I've got nothing to hide from anybody. I'd meet Garrison if he wishes to question me about people that I know. Fine. I'm willing to give him a complete list of everybody I know.

Q. To your knowledge, have you ever talked to any of Garrison's people before in an official capacity about this investigation?

A. No, never.

Q. I mean, if you have, it's been an undercover-type guy.

A. Yeah. The only thing that I knew of was the fact that there had been Garrison investigators out in the State of Washington off and on during the last year and a half.

B. I think you should tell him what you believe the so called undercover agents are -- what they're trying to purport that you know.

A. Yeah, I think this was good. And we'll get it on the record. What the heck!

I think in all probability what they're looking for actually, the remnants of the free fighters of the Cuban free fighters against Castro of their financial fights. This is what they're looking for. And Garrison feels if he finds the remnants of that, whatever it might be, well up in the thousands of dollars. And if he finds that, whoever has it, wherever it might be, he'll find a definite lead to the person that was involved in the shooting of the President. Because as you recall, going back to his original theory, it was free Cubans who about the Bay of Pigs type thing, that were a spin-off from the Bay of Pigs, that concocted and formed this whole thing.

Well, there was a tremendous amount of money involved and TOM BECKHAM was, he was a disc-jockey in New Orleans, and pretty well educated, and at that time the free fighters were -- you know, everybody was doing all kinds of social things to help them out, all this type of thing. He served as their banker. Now how much money there was, all totaled, I don't know. I'm really not sure.

Q. Were you involved with BECKHAM at that time?

A. I never met him until he came to Washington. But why he came, I'm not sure. I met him out here. He had a couple of hit records he wanted to promote and that sort of thing and I went along with that. I helped out on it. I wrote a lot of his stuff for him, as BOB has told you. I'll write material for anybody, for anything. I earn a living as a freelance writer. Consequently, I've written for major political figures in both parties. I still do. Doing so right now.

Q. There's a rumor afoot that you've been writing an underground newspaper in Tacoma. Is there anything to that?

A. This has been laid on my back about 7 or 8 times -- one thing they brought out over and over again. Especially, people calling over the air and asking about it. I use

phraseology in that paper. But I pointed out to them that many a minister uses phraseology out of the Bible, you know. That doesn't mean they wrote the Bible. Whether a rumor is true or whether it's not true has no bearing here.

(inaudible)

- Q. I think this is the way this should be.
- A. I've met a couple of fellows that liked - that have written material for that, the New Times, I think you're talking about.
- Q. Yes.
- A. But I haven't written it. I don't have anything to do with it.
- Q. Let's get to something else. Our first contact was yesterday afternoon right after you had had a meeting in the office of Mayor , with the Mayor Mr. Nichols of KAYE and Chief Zittel and Mr. Dukenthaler. What about this local matter? Let's get that on the record now.
- A. Okay, let's get that on the record because I feel this is beginning to get a little annoying, this type of thing. In the first place, I wasn't speeding to start out with.
- B. Wait, no, I don't think we should. The reason I say this is ~~XXXX~~ still in the process. There's going to be a hearing on that and I don't think we should
- Q. Okay, fine. (inaudible) I'll cut this part of the tape and you have my word on it. I'll -- I won't run it.
- B. I think what you ought to tell us, your work with Boeing and some of what you were telling me as to maybe a feeling of Garrison as to the accusation.
- Q. Let me lead into that, BOB, and you tell me if I'm wrong. About a year ago -- and I may be wrong in this, FRED, but I think I'm right, about a year ago Garrison in a speech in Los Angeles or in the State of California that an allusion to the fact that there were some people doing work for Boeing who were involved in the assassination plot of John F. Kennedy. Now do you have any ideas what this might be?
- A. Now he knows I was a former Boeing employee. I was a personnel man. I worked for Boeing a couple of years. I quit Boeing to go back to the field of teaching. Now he claims that I did not quit. That I still work for Boeing. He attempts to paint a picture of me as sort of a highly paid, undercover -- and please don't mistake underworld, I had this quoted to me back today, that I was supposed to be with the underworld.
- Q. If you had called this WTX man who had some allusions of the same kind...

A. That I belonged to a fantastic conglomeration of rather highly-paid, sort of super spies for the industrial world -- spy upon one another, especially in the field of aero-space and aero-hardware of one kind of another. Actually, it's not. I don't have any connection with Boeing whatsoever. He's made this delusion to about two or three people. And he has mentioned this Boeing thing three or four times.

B. Now the one thing I want to get eminently clear, you quit Boeing.

A. That's right. Resigned from Boeing.

Is he what?
Q. Because here again I have picked up today a great deal of things, and it's very difficult to sort out fact from fiction. And as I say, I want to be fair. Whether I agree with you or not is beside the point, you know, on anything. Whether you agree with me -- we're both in the same business. One other thing, as far as I'm concerned, and from here on out we'll say what you want to say. We'll see if we can get it all. I'm going to cut some of these extraneous remarks out. There seems to be on the part of some people in this area, some question as to your use of the title, "Doctor". Can you tell me the source of this usage on your part?

B. Could I answer that?

Q. Sure, perfectly all right.

B. He is a psychologist who has a doctor's degree, and he can legally use the term "doctor".

Q. May I ask one thing more? From what institution...

A. I got two really, but one is an honorary-type thing. *for what?*
Brentridge College and it's at Falcomb, England. and you can call it by calling Falcomb 405, if you wanted. I got my transcripts and I got my -- in Latin and in English.

Q. I knew that you had a B.A. from _____ that you got in '51. Am I correct?

A. A B.A. I got in '50.

Q. I know this much. It shows you that I have done a little work. But that was fine. This is another thing. Now, at this point is there anything else you want to get on the record or you think you should get on the record?

B. I think that you should get on the record or something that even though he has not been served a subpoena in this matter, he is a local person and I think he should bring out which I told the PI last evening, he's a veteran of two wars, he's a fighter pilot who's been shot down twice, is that right? Shot down twice in World War II and again in Korea. So he was shot down three times in an airplane serving his country. He is a highly educated man who has not only been a teacher, but is presently in the radio field, who is a good citizen, and is quite shocked. And the thing that should be, because you're going to be served a subpoena in a Grand Jury does not mean that you're a victim or that there's any accusation against you, it merely means that you might have

some knowledge about something that might be relevant to some issues. So people who are subpoenaed does not have any guilt complex associate. That's why I made it emphatic at the first point, that my client, if he's served that subpoena and given transportation there and expenses, will voluntarily go. They don't have to do anything more. Isn't that right?

A. That's right.

B. I think that should be in the record.

Q. I think also at this point there is one thing I should make clear. As soon as I get back to the station, BOB, -- FRED is familiar with this, you probably aren't, -- I will make a complete, unedited dub of what I have here and I will furnish it to you so that nobody -- I will also have one myself -- and I'll try to be eminently fair and not take anything out of context. I'm not going to run this whole thing. There are a couple of points in here we want to cut off.

B. Sure. This is one of the reasons why he selected you when because I thought that your broadcast had been the fairest, on the line. At least you went to the trouble to place the calls and find out what these people had to say on the other end.

Q. I don't know whether you heard my 5:30 broadcast last night...

B. No, I didn't.

Q. After my confrontation with FRED last night, I went back and I said these are facts I have from UPI. These are things that MR. CRISMAN said to me. I drew no conclusions. That's not for me to do. All right, fine. You're ROBERT GRIFFIN. You're a Tacoma attorney representing FRED LEE CRISMAN.

B. Right.

Q. And you're FRED LEE CRISMAN and to the best of your knowledge you're the same FRED LEE CRISMAN that Mr. Garrison's talking about.

A. Right.

Q. And I'm ^{MEL GAUMER} ~~MEL GAUMER~~, the news director of KTAC.

B. One point I'd like to put in the record, of your courtesy. That you did not try to ask any twisted questions. You were very fair to both myself and my client. I'd like that to go onto the tape also, that you were very courteous and very fair and very objective.

7 ? Q. Thank you very much.

A. One thing, I've had some -- why did I use the name JOHN GOLD.

Q. Yes, I'm glad you thought of that. This, of course, anybody in my business doesn't worry about, but other people do.

- A. We didn't know whether the program was going to be a success or not and I give Jim NICHOLS credit for this. He said I don't want to have the experience of having a program to produce unless it really clicks and becomes as popular as Party Line in the morning that you can get up and walk off with. So let me keep the name JOHN GOLD. You just use a station name. I was perfectly willing to use the name FRED CRISMAN. I didn't care one way or another. JIM thought it would be better to use JOHN GOLD. I told him not to use doctor, it had nothing to do with it. But he did anyway in promoting the thing.
- Q. General Mills has had 18 Betty Crockers, I think.
- A. People say I'm trying to hide something. That wasn't it. The reason was simply that. So I couldn't get up and walk off with the program.

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Beckham Here: Jury Date Resel

A Dallas judge ruled today that the widow of Lee Harvey Oswald must come to New Orleans next week to testify in District Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe.

Texas District Court Judge John Mead told Mrs. Marina Oswald Porter at Dallas she is

(Picture on Page 2)

a "material and necessary witness" in the New Orleans investigation of the slaying of President John F. Kennedy.

MEANWHILE Thomas Edward Beckham, another out-of-state witness sought by Garrison, appeared at Criminal District court here today, but his grand jury appearance was delayed until Feb. 15.

Mrs. Porter is now scheduled to appear before the jury Feb. 8 and 9.

She appeared at the Dallas court with her husband, and would make no comment after the judge's decision. She had previously said she would return to New Orleans "if I have to."

THE COURT action today was a hearing on Garrison's subpoena under the interstate agreement for return of witnesses.

Judge Mead presented Marina with a check from Garrison's office to cover her travel expenses to New Orleans.

In the New Orleans court action, Beckham, 27, asked that his grand jury appearance be put off until he had a chance to confer with his local attorney, newly elected state Rep. Edward H. Booker.

ASSISTANT DA James L.

See JURY—Page 14



THOMAS E. BECKHAM

Jury—

Continued from Page 1

Alcock agreed to the request and Judge Matthew S. Braniff told Beckham to appear before the jury at 9 a.m. Feb. 15 "without further notice."

Beckham arrived in town shortly after midnight from Omaha, where a court had ordered him to return as a material witness at Garrison's request.

The witness will remain in town at his own expense because the delay was at his own request.

BECKHAM WAS accompanied to court this morning by three men with pistols. One was James Hauger, 32, who said he resigned from the Omaha police force two days ago to act as Beckham's bodyguard.

The other two were an unidentified brother of Beckham's and Herman Henning, who carried credentials as an auxiliary sheriff here. Two other brothers of Beckham's were also with him.

Beckham described himself as a minister and psychologist with a degree from Faith Bible College and Faith Theological Seminary in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. He said he plans to hold religious services while here.

IN HIS ROLE as a cowboy singer, Beckham said he has an album coming out entitled "Material Witness." He first described it as a "kinda party record on Garrison," but later said it was "just a bunch of songs I've done and doesn't have anything to do with Garrison."

Beckham said he needed the bodyguards because he has been threatened both in Omaha and here. He said his mother, who lives here, has had telephone calls from persons who said Beckham would be harmed if he appeared before the jury.

BEFORE BECKHAM'S brief court appearance, newsmen were told by Jimmy Beckham, 17, one of the brothers, that they could interview Thomas Beckham if they would come to Booker's office at 2533 Tulane.

The press corps trooped to the office, only to be told by Booker that no interviews would be given.

Garrison's original subpoena for Beckham alleged that the singer was an associate of the late David William Ferrie, a key figure in the DA's probe of the slaying of President John F. Kennedy.

THE SUBPENA SAID Beckham and Ferrie were both ordained priests in the "Old Orthodox Catholic" Church of North America.

The document also said Beckham was reported to be in Dallas in November of 1963, the month the President was killed.

In Beckham's absence, the jury heard legislative auditor James B. Lancaster, but it was not disclosed in what connection. Lancaster would say only his appearance "was not because of anything our audits have uncovered."

BESIDES THE Kennedy probe, the jury is investigating some land purchases by the Orleans Parish School Board, and other matters.

Other persons waiting to testify today were identified as Dr. Joseph Weinberg, 4900 Carondelet; Leon Rosenzweig, 5537 Evelyn ct.; the Rev. Spencer Taylor, 202 N. Tonti; Girard Villamarette, of City Hall.

No one disclosed in what case these persons were to testify.

TWO 1968 THURSDAY FEB 1



MRS. MARINA OSWALD PORTER stands with her husband, KENNETH JESS PORTER, in district court today in Dallas, Tex., to answer a subpoena ordering her before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury. The widow of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald had earlier said she would return to New Orleans "if I have to."

STATES - ITEM

FEB 1 '68

6

MEMORANDUM

January 25, 1968

TO: LOUIS IVON, Chief Investigator

FROM: GARY SANDERS, Investigator

RE: ELMER RENFROE
324 Exchange Place
New Orleans, La.
523-2752

+ Re: SHAW

(as "CLAY BERTRAND") (p.2)

+ Re: DEAN ANDREWS (p.2)

ELMER RENFROE was interviewed in connection with the EDWARD GIRNUS memo of Dec. 7, 1967, in which GIRNUS is reported as saying he met CLAY SHAW in the Alpine Restaurant and Bar, 620 Chartres St. He stated that he was introduced to SHAW by a man who owned an apartment house on Exchange Place which had a courtyard. The man was a homosexual and was described as:

homosexual
short
fat
bald
wore glasses

And every time GIRNUS saw this man he was walking a dog and wearing Bermuda shorts.

On January 23, 1968, I contacted ELMER RENFROE who is managing an apartment house with a courtyard on Exchange Place. RENFROE is a classic example of a homosexual, he expressed some contempt at being questioned since he had been nabbed by the Vice Squad for an attempted crime against nature. This eventually cost him about \$1500.00.

RENFROE said he was originally from Mobile, Alabama and he had lived in New Orleans for over 20 years. A "boyfriend" of his, named EARL JOSEPH MUNTZ aka JACK MUNTZ bought the apartment house at 324 Exchange Place during World War II. MUNTZ and RENFROE lived together at the apartment house until MUNTZ died of a stroke in 1964.

RENFROE described MUNTZ as:

short
balding blond hair
homosexual
sometimes wore glasses

and said he had two dogs, (a collie and some small dog) which he would walk in the Quarter. RENFROE said MUNTZ also wore Bermuda shorts often.

RENFROE says he never heard of or met EDWARD GIRNUS, EDWARD STARK or anyone named RITTNER and since MUNTZ is dead it seems that it will be very difficult to prove or disprove GIRNUS' story. RENFROE

RE:

ELMER RENFROE

PAGE 2

said he might have a picture of MUNTZ which we could use if we ever question GERNUS again.

After I had finished talking with RENFROE in regards to GERNUS, he launched the conversation into another area of the investigation, namely the EUGENE DAVIS - DEAN ANDREWS relationship. RENFROE said that he had known GENE DAVIS (or "MISS" DAVIS as RENFROE calls him) for about 20 years and he said he never heard the name CLAY BERTRAND associated with DAVIS.

RENFROE'S story, was that DAVIS was living with and taking care of an elderly Negro woman who lived on Dauphine Street. The Negro woman was willing all her money and possessions to DAVIS in return for DAVIS' care. DAVIS ran into financial problems so he approached RENFROE and RENFROE told DAVIS to go to the Negro woman and ask her to give him his inheritance then, instead of waiting until she died. She agreed to this and DAVIS went to a Savings and Loan Company (Homestead Savings & Loan, at 329 Barrone St.? Unsure) to withdraw some money. He could not get the money and informed RENFROE of this fact. RENFROE then suggested that DAVIS talk to DEAN ANDREWS about getting the money. To quote RENFROE he said, "If anybody can get that money, DEAN ANDREWS can."

ANDREWS worked out some plan to get the money (15-20 thousand dollars). RENFROE did not remember any of the details of this maneuver but he said that ANDREWS wound up with the money and DAVIS had none. In fact DAVIS had to go to ANDREWS to get a couple of hundred dollars to fix the roof of the house on Dauphine Street after "Betsy" damaged it.

"CLAY
BERTRAND"

RENFROE was very surprised when ANDREWS said DAVIS was CLAY BERTRAND. RENFROE said the only person he had ever heard of in the gay world of the Quarter named CLAY, was CLAY SHAW.

RENFROE said the black robe and hood that SHAW had was worn by SHAW during the Mardi Gras celebrations and he thought the whips were a gift from someone in Mexico. RENFROE then elaborated on the fact that some homosexuals like to be beaten during the course of their "activities". He made the statement "you know, there's all kinds of sex".

NOTES:

RENFROE is waiting on the settlement of the ownership of the apartment house which was supposedly willed to RENFROE by MUNTZ.

RENFROE could be a good source of information on the "gay" crowd in the French Quarter.

The origin of SHAW'S whips (Mexico?) might be interesting, since it might lead to some of SHAW'S connections outside the U. S.

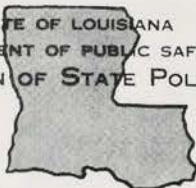
GARY SANDERS

GS7jld



COL. THOMAS D. BURBANK
Director-Superintendent

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE



LT. COL. BEN F. RAGUSA
Assistant Superintendent

New Orleans, Louisiana
August 5, 1967

TO: Louis Ivon, Chief Investigator, N.O. District
Attorney's Office.

FROM: Sgt. John J. Buccola

SUBJECT: Dean Andrews

Regarding our telephone conversation in reference to my report on investigation dated April 16, 1967, reference Page 2, Paragraph 3, following is subject and conversation referred to therein.

On Wednesday night, April 12, 1967, at approximately 10:00 PM, Lt. Casso and myself entered the "544" Club on Bourbon Street and noticed Dean Andrews was seated at the bar. As a result of our lifetime acquaintance in the Parish our conversation was both casual and intimate. Andrews let me know that he knew I was on Jim Garrison's investigative staff on the assassination probe. This lead us into a conversation regarding the Grand Jury indictment against him. I explained to him that my opinion was that no District Attorney of any Parish prosecuted a perjury charge - that said charge was to force the individual to tell the truth, and that if he would identify Bertrand, I was sure the perjury charge against him would be dropped. Andrews reply was that he would rather pull five years than identify Bertrand because these people played for keeps, and that five years was better than being dead. Further into the conversation, Andrews stated that if he identified Bertrand he would be pegged as a fink and lose all of his connections on the Strip. He told me the story of looking for Bertrand and seeing him in a bar on Bourbon Street but due to his weight did not give chase.

Andrews did not call Jim Garrison by name but always referred to him as the "Jolly Green Giant". Andrews said that the Jolly Green Giant had no evidence; that his case was taken from the following books: Whitewash I, Whitewash II, Rush to Judgment, and Volume 6 of the Warren Report. Andrews then told me (Buccola) to read the above named books and that after I had read them he would discuss the case further with me.

COURTESY

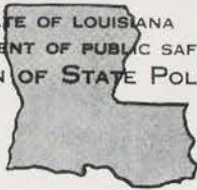
LOYALTY

SERVICE



COL. THOMAS D. BURBANK
Director—Superintendent

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE



LT. COL. BEN F. RAGUSA
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

-2-

After leaving the "544" Club, Lt. Casso explained to me that due to his conversation with someone else at the bar and the noise from the loud band, the only part of the conversation between Andrews and myself ~~xxx~~ that he heard was Andrews stating that if he identified Bertrand he would be pegged as a fink and lose all of his connections on the Strip.

Respectfully submitted,

Sgt. John J. Buccola
Sgt. John J. Buccola

COURTESY

LOYALTY

SERVICE

Better Business Bureau ALERT

FEB 16 1967

THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU INC
1000 MARKET STREET LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68502

Beckham's automobile was seen at this address February 14, 1967, so we assume that he is still there.

Febr. 15, 1967

TO: Members of the Lincoln Better Business Bureau

RE: T. Edward Beckham, DD, PHD and
4821 South Street, Lincoln

The American Academy of
Professional Arts Lincoln
T. Edward Beckham, Resident Agent

The following classified advertisement was run in Lincoln newspapers the last week in December, 1966:

"Do you have a problem? T. Edward Beckham, DD, PHD announces the opening of his offices for the research practice of Metaphysics & Psychology. By appointment only 488-7032."

Credentials provided (but not verified) the Lincoln BBB by Beckham portray him to be qualified to practice the healing arts of drugless therapeutics, and as having had extensive training in the fields of psychotherapy, hypnotherapy, psychopathy and criminology. Beckham states that he was awarded his Ph. D. from Brantridge Forest, Balcond-Sussex, England, August, 1964, and his Doctor of Divinity from Ecumenical Divinity Institute, Cleveland, Ohio, December, 1966. He has stated that his purpose in being in Lincoln is to establish a Universal Life Church, and that he is a Bishop of that church for a four state area, including Nebraska.

January 25, 1967 the American Academy of Professional Arts in Lincoln was incorporated in Nebraska "to maintain a college of religious science." Resident agent is T. Edward Beckham, 4821 South St., Lincoln, Nebraska, and other incorporators are his wife, Connie Diana Beckham, and his mother-in-law, Searoba Porter Bates, at the same address.

Considerable background information on Beckham has been received from other Better Business Bureaus located in cities where Beckham resided before moving to Lincoln. Before doing business with this man, members are encouraged to visit the Bureau office for a complete report.

BEFORE YOU INVEST — INVESTIGATE

MEMORANDUM

EX. 8

February 16, 1968

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

FROM: TOM BETHELL

RE: DAVID LEWIS and THOMAS EDWARD BECKHAM

On February 15, 1968, DAVID LEWIS was interviewed with regard to his knowledge of THOMAS EDWARD BECKHAM. *for Sprague*

LEWIS advised that he met BECKHAM around Thanksgiving/Christmas, 1962, at which time BECKHAM attempted to enlist LEWIS in his United Cuban Relief Missionary Force, an outfit which was intended to bring medical and missionary aid to anti-Castro Cubans in Cuba. "He was going to pull another Bay of Pigs," LEWIS said. An attempt was also made to procure arms. LEWIS said that he regarded this operation as "primarily a sham, an attempt to get money".

LEWIS said that he believes the following people knew BECKHAM at this time and may have also been involved in this venture:

ART MCGILL	(lives in St. Roch St. area)
JIM PHEELEY (Sp?)	(a close friend of BECKHAM)
ROZWELL THOMPSON	(now BECKHAM's "attorney")
PAUL CARRERA	

LEWIS describes MCGILL as a "non-working musician" who was involved with a drum and bugle corps which had military uniforms and marched in parades. BECKHAM wanted to get the uniforms from MCGILL to use for the Cuban Missionary Force.

Finally BECKHAM's attempt to form this outfit was broken up by the FBI. FBI agents questioned LEWIS about his connections with this group.

LEWIS advised that he first met BECKHAM through WES JACKSON of the Times-Picayune. LEWIS and BECKHAM first met at Walgreen's Drug Store in 1960 or 1961.

BECKHAM was operating as a phoney priest with false ordination papers. He obtained these by sending a \$5.00 bill to EARL ANGLIN JAMES in Toronto. JAMES mailed back the papers. It is to be noted that telephone records reveal that DAVID FERRIE frequently called JAMES' number in Toronto in 1962 and 1963.

LEWIS thinks that BECKHAM knew FERRIE but is not sure. LEWIS does not know what the relationship was between BAWISTER and BECKHAM.

LEWIS said that he recalls meeting someone answering to JOSEPH MOORE's description with BILL DALZELL and JIM PHEELEY in Thompson's Restaurant on St. Charles Avenue. LEWIS describes the occasion as a "bull session".

THOMAS BECKHAM married a Spanish girl, then 14 years old, named either TERESA or GLORIA. He apparently violated the Mann Act by taking her to Las Vegas or Reno; he later returned and married her in Jefferson Parish.

LEWIS advised that the places BECKHAM frequents in New Orleans are: Walgreens; Thompson's Restaurant; Mayflower Restaurant (Canal & University); Roosevelt Hotel Coffee Shop; Meal-a-Minit (Claiborne & Canal).

After 1964, LEWIS did not see BECKHAM again until BECKHAM returned here 2 weeks ago in response to the subpoena issued for him. It is to be noted that LEWIS is now living with JACK S. MARTIN.

BECKHAM contacted LEWIS because he wanted LEWIS to rifle JACK MARTIN's files pertaining to the assassination investigation, and also any "Old church" material. LEWIS advised that he believed BECKHAM's intention was to "sabotage". BECKHAM, in any event, bribed LEWIS to remove this material from MARTIN's house, and promised him \$25 on delivery, with a further \$100 if the material turned out to be valuable. LEWIS did not in fact comply with BECKHAM's requests in this matter.

LEWIS stated that BECKHAM told him that he (BECKHAM) was employed as an agent by the CIA. When this remark was made BECKHAM was accompanied by his brother's and his "bodyguard", one JIM (LNU). BECKHAM added that he had affidavits which would put JIM GARRISON in jail, alleging that GARRISON was blackmailing some one who lived in the Claiborne Towers.

According to LEWIS, BECKHAM also avers that the federal government is about to charge GARRISON with treason.

BECKHAM told LEWIS that he works for a colonel who is employed at a phoney SAC base near Omaha, Nebraska; and that the car he drives around in, a 1968 beige Dodge Charger (Nebraska Plates) with a red light on the dashboard similar to that used by police, was bought for him by the CIA.

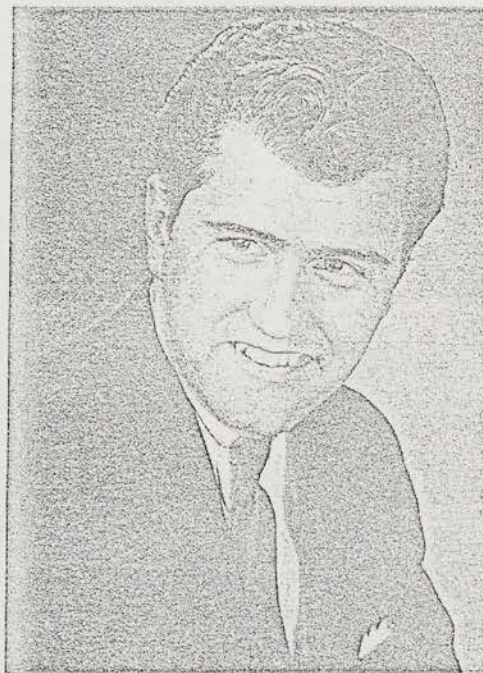
DAVID LEWIS added that he has not been contacted at all by the FBI since his involvement with BECKHAM in 1962. LEWIS is currently living with JACK MARTIN, tel: 943-0813, office phone no.: 488-9598 (New University School).

INTERDENOMINATIONAL NON-PROFIT CHURCH MOVEMENT

Make Plans To See and Hear The Knowledge of the Lord

*Habakkuk 2:14. "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge
of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."*

Dedicated to the Glory of God



T. EDWARD BECKHAM

Evangelist

YOU MUST MAKE PLANS TO SEE AND HEAR DR. T. EDWARD BECKHAM WHILE HE IS IN
OUR CITY. BE SURE AND GET TOGETHER A GROUP FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

PLACE



Your Personal Invitation

RE: T.E. BECKHAM:

EXHIBITS

- EX. 1 BECKHAM'S ARREST RECORD (compiled circa 1968)
- EX. 2 ANONYMOUS LETTER "A" (re Beckham's links with CRISMAN, AREACHA and others)
- EX. 3 ANONYMOUS LETTER "B" (this one from Dallas. Quite different from preceding letter in style, organization & punctuation. Also apparently re CRISMAN, specifically re AREACHA and others).
- EX. 4 LETTER FROM BECKHAM (in which he identifies self as singing under name of "MARK EVANS" - See EX. 6 below).
- EX. 5 CIRCULAR RE PREACHING OF "DR." BECKHAM, "EVANGELIST"
(Have no idea re significance of Swastika on left side of page. Not your basic Christian minister).
- EX. 6 CIRCULAR FOR BECKHAM AS "MARK EVANS" (Note at bottom the name of F. LEE CRISMAN as "agent")
- EX. 7 RADIO NEWS INTERVIEW IN TACOMA WITH CRISMAN (Interview is by KTAC news. I have assumed it is radio but it could conceivably be TV. Have no idea how we picked it up. It offers some insight into the relationship between BECKHAM and CRISMAN. (note that CRISMAN is not loath to inform the interviewer that, as "Mark Evans", BECKHAM "had two or three million hit records in the record business"). CRISMAN also states that BECKHAM, "being pretty well educated", served as the "banker" for the anti-Castro Cubans in New Orleans (an astute piece of knowledge for a Tacoma man of the cloth). In the course of the interview, CRISMAN'S lawyer (apparently the speaker designated as "B") describes him as a former fighter pilot in W.W. II and Korea and CRISMAN himself indicates that he was also formerly a Boeing employee.

A point of possible significance here as to CRISMAN'S "doctor's degree" (since you may well be encountering him down the road) and as to BECKHAM'S "doctor's degree": CRISMAN indicates that he has 2 doctors degrees, at one point (one of which is "honorary"). One of these he states he obtained at BRENTBRIDGE COLLEGE at FALCONG, ENGLAND (See p. 5 of this interview). In the Better Business Bureau, Lincoln, Nebraska, warning on BECKHAM'S false advertising as a D.D. and PHD with metaphysical attributes, he is quoted as saying that he was awarded his PHD at "BRANTRIDGE/FOREST, DALCONG-SUSSEX, ENGLAND" in August, 1984. (See EX. 10).

RE: T.E. BECKHAM:

EXHIBITS (CONTINUED)

enough about the proposition to suggest to the interviewers that he call, for confirmation, "FALCONS 405" (sic). And Beckham, for him, is uncharacteristically precise in naming "August, 1964" as the date he received his degree at what (giving allowance for some verbal imprecision) would appear to be the same "college". In any case, if it exists, ORENTRIDGE or BRANTRIDGE, whichever it is, has at least 2 distinguished alumni — one a bishop with the UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH and the other a bishop with the HOLY ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH.)

EX. 8 STATEMENT OF DAVID LEWIS (referred to earlier)

EX. 9 STATES-ITEM 2/1/68 STORY ON BECKHAM (In this article BECKHAM gives ~~the~~ entirely different "colleges" for his Divinity Degree than he gives in EX. 10 — a conflict which may be of value in establishing his veracity, or lack of it, as a witness. In this news item he indicates that he is a minister and that his supporting degrees were obtained from FAITH BIBLE COLLEGE and TENO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.)

EX. 10 BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, ARTICLE ABOUT BECKHAM, DATED FEB. 15, 1967 (Here, BECKHAM is quoted as saying he received his DOCTOR OF DIVINITY from ECUMENICAL DIVINITY INSTITUTE, CLEVELAND, OHIO [which, for whatever it is worth, is DAVID FORRIE's home town]. It is in this item, of course, that he indicates that his PH.D. came from BRANTRIDGE FOREST, which appears to be one of CRISMAN's putative alma maters).

7/18/77

TO: JONATHAN BLACKMER

FROM: JIM GARRISON

RE: THOMAS E. BECKHAM

It was interesting that you mentioned this subject because he was always of special interest to me, although - as you will see - I was never able to do much with him. I have no idea how he surfaced for you but quite apparently it was from another direction than his arrival into our focus, which is probably all to the good. Anyway, here is a bit of background on him - with a few supporting exhibits - which may be interesting to you.

Beckham, from our perspective (looking back after 10 years), can be described as a subject worthy of enquiry for ^{four} basic reasons:

(1) He is - or was - a protégé of F. LEE CRISMAN (If, as seems quite possible, to put it conservatively, CRISMAN was one of the three "tramps" arrested by Dallas police [back of the grassy knoll and in the railroad yards] after the assassination, then Beckham's being his protégé makes him somewhat radio-active even if there were nothing more - but there is more. As to evidence that such a relationship existed, I will attach a few samples. [Incidentally, when - if ever - are the Dallas police and/or the Bureau going to oblige us with names of the eight or nine individuals arrested - as established by the photographs - after the assassination? In addition, that is, to the arrestee initially palmed off as "Jim Braden, oil man."]

(2) Beckham was a part of what can best be described as "the Banister cell" operating, by 1962 and 1963 out of GUY BANISTER'S "private detective office." (BANISTER, as you know, served with Naval Intelligence in WWII and was the retired SAC of the Bureau's Chicago office). Others operating from that group - or working with it by 1963 - were DAVID FERRIE, WILLIAM DALZELL, LEE OSWALD, KERRY THORLEY, SERGIO ARCACHA, GRADY DURHAM, LUIS RABEL (and, apparently as well, CARLOS QUIROGA, EMILIO SANTANA and others active in the Cuban Revolutionary Front - the main anti-Castro effort in New Orleans. More details below).

(3)

(3) BECKHAM was a member of that bigger cluster of "Old Church" Evangelical sects which we found recurrent in the whole affair and which characterized some of the apparently more radioactive individuals we came across in the course of digging away at the New Orleans sub-structure (e.g. As early as November, 1962, during one of his frequent arrests to which, up to that point, characterized his earlier years - until, about 1962 or 1963, the development of his relationship with his Old Church guru (apparently initially DAVID FERRIE, then subsequently CRISMAN) seems to have cured his economic problem - he was describing himself as an "ordained priest" of the OLD ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH (as was DAVID FERRIE - whose priestly vestments we found in his apartment after his death, described as due to natural causes by the coroner despite the two typed suicide notes). Later he became a "minister" in the UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH (as was F. LEE CRISMAN, later apparently a "bishop" in same).

Still later - after varied divine positions in various cities (including Austin, Texas) - he sets up light house-keeping in Omaha, Nebraska, as the bishop, now, of the PRIESTHOOD OF THE HOLY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH - under the apparently specific sponsorship of CRISMAN. (See attachments re this last). (During this Omaha phase, in the late 1960's by which time he had elevated himself to the title of Dr. T. Edward Beckham, he had a curious - for him - relationship with an Air Force Colonel at the SAC Base there at Offutt A.F.B. I recall that, during my questioning of him before the Grand Jury, he described this as a "business relationship" - somewhat interesting in view of the fact that he never advanced beyond the 11th grade and had no perceptible business background. With regard to this relationship to Offutt A.F.B., see subsequent notes and attachments re CRISMAN's apparent background in the Air Force and his subsequent relationship with Boeing Aircraft before he ascended to his make-believe religious vocation with the UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH).

In passing, you may want to take note of the fact that LAVERNE CRAWFORD, who departed Dallas & Jack Ruby's hospitality (suggested re-reading here of Julia Ann Mercer's real statements, as she gave them to me) precipitately the day following the assassination, was

Dr. [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

affiliated with an equally active and vibrant OLD CHURCH (Quaker:
had for in Dallas, Oregon, his arrival from here, from Tacoma,
Washington, CRISMAN's "missioned" class? I am away from him at
his writing, so have no access to the old records, but I would
positive reference by CRASMAN in his testimony and in his note-
book to being, although it seems to imply that as an "mission
camping." ~~CRASMAN's class of 1880-1881~~ ~~CRASMAN's class of 1880-1881~~
~~CRASMAN's class of 1880-1881~~ ~~CRASMAN's class of 1880-1881~~
John Ferry

More recently, as you will know, FRANK STUBBS applied in
Ft. Smith to found a corresponding church west of his own (i.e. would
have details, and undoubtedly Stinger's records, on that). Now would he
be inclined to accepting as pure reminiscence of this mission, or
genuinely present divinity, the fact that the Allen of Offin
Tippet accomplished his act in the vicinity of a temporary, un-
occupied, unmaned (last year) occupied church at 10th &
Campbell, in the near absence of which - after visiting the blood-
de some quite likely to have found sanctuary (See History
of 1880, pp 62 & 63) when the sanctuary is now occupied in the
Dallas Police radio tower. As to the possible function of this
occupied church structure in the general missionary, see my
note following this memorandum.

(4) A fourth reason, BERNARD is interesting in his own
long after our spiritual line, after establishing his own Church -
on his separation, and getting him before the Dallas Police Board
Ferry, we can move with quite apparently aimed to be
Dr. BERNARD himself - moving from, as I recall - in a
John taken immediately following the assassination in front of
the First Depository. However, here I must emphasize the
subjective factor in identifying some one as "identical" in
a film - and as I place it as the fourth point of interest.
Now, here as the factor of BERNARD's troubled years prior
to this occasion and it is hard to accept a group as caught
as had to be have involved bringing him about as consistent
a mission (arguing against this, on the other hand, as the wide-
ranging that young men with problems, including - the CRASMAN'S,
the JACK LAWRENCE'S and to have a special value of this man to identify
spiritual managers. But for this we now conclude, leaving finally

stumbled into easy security. Or perhaps, unlike more productive - and, hence, busier - young men it is they who ultimately find their way to the easiest security available in the country. In any case, by 1963 - and subsequently - BECKHAM seems to have found spouse and a home, and his succession of arrest records ends. (See attached arrest record).

It was a clear film, in excellent color, and at least a few of us concluded that it could very likely be BECKHAM. However, as I recall, by that time we had lost the Shaw case (universally interpreted by the press as an acquittal of all parts of the intelligence community) and the press was pounding away at us as perverts, poultrons and opportunists of the lowest order, so we shrugged at the remarkable similarity of the image, and let it pass. Now, however, with your coming ^{out to} from left field with his name - whatever your reasons and your sources - I will see if we can locate it, although at this juncture I am not overly optimistic.

Anyway, those are some of the reasons BECKHAM (and any structure you have found him to be a part of) is indeed worthy of in-depth inquiry).

Assuming that you are still reading this lengthy memo, I will append a post-script to it tomorrow adding some additional details concerning the subject and itemizing the ~~other~~ - closure.

Regards,
Jim Garrison

ADDENDUM

SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON BECKHAM:

1. As indicated by his included arrest record, BECKHAM seems to have been in the Army in 1961. However, the Post Stochade records at Camp Leroy Johnson (2/1/61) and at Fort Leonard Wood (one week later, 2/8/61) indicate under the Charge only the word "inspiring". What this means & how his Army career patterned out so fast is likely in the Grand jury transcript of his testimony inasmuch as I'm

(See note below re TB + Grand Jury)

⑤

sure I wouldn't have stated that during my long questing of him. In any case by 1962 he is back in New Orleans and by Fall he has been elevated to a priesthood in the OLD ORTHODOX CHURCH (which is probably another way of saying he has met DAVID FERRIS and, soon if not by then, is about to develop his contacts with the BANISTER manager at 531 Lafayette (and 540 Lamp).

2. Court records which we obtained indicate that in January, 1963, for an undisclosed period, BECKHAM was a patient in the mental institution at Mandeville, north of Lake Pontchartrain. Mandeville, unlike Jackson (where 8 months later Shaw and Ferris were apparently trying to plant Oswald) is essentially a civil mental institution, where commitment is often voluntary. (Jackson, on the other hand, is strictly for the criminally insane). Perhaps BECKHAM had a temporary mental problem or perhaps his new, older friends were toying with the possibility of an alternative ploy in case of a last minute problem with LHO. In any case, the Mandeville Hospital refused to supply us voluntarily with information and the point involved was not sufficiently significant to justify our seeking a court order.

3. One source interviewed by us in February, 1968 (Bob Lavender in Seattle), who obviously knew CRISMAN well and apparently knew BECKHAM fairly well advised us that BECKHAM indicated to him that while in New Orleans he had assisted in establishing a fund-raising office with SERGIO ARCACHA and LOUIS RABEL to support anti-Kastro activity. The same source quoted CRISMAN as saying he had made many trips from Olympia, Washington, with BECKHAM to the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans. With regard to our Grand Jury subpoena of BECKHAM (from Omaha) the source quoted CRISMAN as having called him (Lavender) at the time and having said that he "would kill BECKHAM if I am subpoenaed as the result of anything he says."

4. A separate source interviewed by us (David Lewis in New Orleans) stated that after his arrival in N.O. for the Grand Jury appearance BECKHAM paid him cash to steal from a former hang-on at BANISTER'S his file of ^{investigation} OLD CHURCH material and any files he had pertaining to the assassination. (See Lewis' statement).

The informant, according to his statement, obliged. BECKHAM, by now had fallen upon happier times, and was driving (this being 1968) a 1968 beige Dodge Charger with Nebraska plates.

5. Some other material of possible relevance (but unconfirmed) as to BECKHAM and CRISMAN, as well) will be found in the several anonymous letters enclosed. While anonymous letters have to be regarded sceptically, these are fairly meaty in spots and indicate some knowledge of the various activity patterns of BECKHAM & CRISMAN (especially as to extreme travel activities).

6. It should be added that David Lewis (see references to his interview above) was informed by BECKHAM that he had obtained his present papers from EARL ANGLIN JAMES of Toronto. (Our files indicated that DAVID FERRIE made a number of calls to JAMES' number in Toronto in 1962 + 1967.* You might want to make a routine cross-check, in this regard, as to any connection with JAMES — a bishop or archbishop in the OLD ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH — and possible TORONTO activities of JAMES EARL RAY & ERIC GALT & CO. Speaking of long shots, that is).

7. THOMAS BECKHAM was subpoenaed before our Grand Jury in early 1967 at the same time we subpoenaed LOREY HALL & LAWRENCE HOWARD. After appearing the subpoena both in Omaha and, on the final day, in New Orleans, he appeared before the Grand Jury on February 15th. His general response as to all issues was that he knew virtually nothing about anything. As to other important characters, for example, he either didn't know them or only knew them casually. Consequently — since a glib witness can usually survive the first encounter, if he is willing to take enough chances on future re-questioning, we had to accept the tactical alternative of getting him on the record about as many details as possible. We questioned him, as I recall, for about 4 hours and the position he took, the answers he gave, may be of value to you & now. My recollection, for example, is of question —

* C.F. has copies now of D.F.'s '62 & '63 long distance calls, although I don't think the particular calls to Father (it may be Archbishop) EARL ANGLIN JAMES are indicated thereon by the appropriate Toronto numbers. We had them, and still may somewhere, if we can dig them up.

ing him in depth from the Banister operation to anti-Castro Cuban activity to his relationships with FERRIE and CRISMAN to his OCO CHURCH activity to his relationship to personnel at Offutt A.F.B. in Omaha to his possible presence in Dallas and so on. This transcript (like the ³²transcripts of HOWARD, HALL, CRISMAN, DALZELL, KERRY THORNLEY — a most important one — MARINA OSWALD and others) are presently in the custody of District Attorney Harry Connick, Criminal District Court Building, 2700 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, La. I know of no serious reason — in view of your official credentials and your mission — why these and any other Grand Jury transcripts should not be readily available to you following a request on your part.

RE: FRED LEE CRISMAN

In the course of summarizing, in the previous pages, the activities of BECKHAM — especially his upward mobility after 1962 — I have, I think, said most of what can be said about CRISMAN (with the possible additional value which the enclosure may represent). Keeping in mind his background & make-up (to the extent that any details are available) we appear to have here: an intelligent, cool & forceful in a low key way (based on our confrontation in the Grand Jury room), educated, former Air Force pilot and Boeing employee — who, for no perceivable reason, at a critical stage in the Cold War, mutated into a roving bishop in a non-existent church (THE UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH)

The only effective approach to such surface mystery is not by the traditional investigative and prosecutorial approach of sending police officers, no matter how bright, out to get traditional "evidence" (fingerprints, footprints, confessions and so on). I suggest that such "evidence" is, in the initial stages at least, not available — for the reason that we are dealing with well buried sub-structures, covered with camouflage nets of violence, so that the roles of the BANISTERS, the FERRIES, the GEORGE LYMAN PAINES, the CRISMANS — and their tools, the OSWALDS, the THORNLEYS and the BECKHAMS (to name

but a few of a substantial cast which appear to include, as well, the RUBINs, the LAWRENCE MEYERS, the LARRY CRAFTS, the SERGIO ARACHAS, the LOUIS RABELS, the BRECK WALLS, the EUGENE HALE BRADINGS ("JIM BRADEN"), the BRUCE RAY CARLINS, the remnants and siblings of the erstwhile TRAFFICANTE (for which read "LANSKI") apparatus, the HALLS and the STORGES and the other mechanic-adventurers of the NO NAME KEY prototype)* - is to approach the problem in terms of the application (and administration where inapplicability develops as apparent) of models.

We are, in short, dealing with bits and pieces of a clandestine structure and the harlequin roles of most of the key players are quite literally designed to make the traditional law-enforcement approach both time consuming and irrelevant. Hence, our evaluation of CRISMAN must be accomplished by the application of models against the background of the history of that period in the 1960's, a period of virtually paranoid response on the part of at least one sector of the American intelligence community to the its envisioned pressures, presumably endangering national security, of the Cold War (this is not to say that those at the level of, say, WALL or CRAFTS or a BECKHAM were motivated ideologically. For them, undoubtedly the motivation was money - and a lifetime of security).

Applying to CRISMAN the relevant model, I suggest the only reasonable conclusion is that he was (and probably is, if still around) an operative at a deep cover level in a long-range, clandestine, intelligence mission directly (in terms of our national intelligence paranoia) related to maintaining national security. Continuing to apply the modular test, CRISMAN emerges as an operative at a supervisory level, a Fagin to the fruitful Dodgers - such as a Beckham - who are required by the

* all of which may happen to be relevant, operating, needless to say, at different levels, ranging from couriers and spear-carriers on through the ranks of foramen and supervisors on up to action ~~sections~~ and logistics executives.

expensive to carry out the mission plan that we needed to find a current mission plan, a middle-man - in the final analysis - between the mechanics who operate and the family members - ethnic support, a hominid mission, as we said, and the district, for example, deeply, although forward look, in the city.

Now, in conclusion, I suggest that if a DECKMAN develops to be of apparent importance as a subject for ethnicizing, then a CRISM should be regarded (as the present matter and appear through the passing '80's) as far - or a limited time - as important, with regard to investigation. All the more money, of course, to develop and dig away at what looks like you have to DECKMAN. For he will inevitably lead to his CRISM - where ethnic is in.

A NOTE AS TO THE POSSIBLE FUTURE OF THE "OLD CHURCHES"

Incidentally, as with CRISM, I think that in the course of the more the possible necessary reference to the OLD CHURCHES have left around the question. Applying to this subject the available model, I suggest that the most likely thing can - when in that line, again - accept with more particularly - we have a substantial contribution developed to some the religious community's concept of national security.

A long-term structure, to be sure, but its very structure - its historical evidence - makes it all the more safe from possible investigation and we looking for open moving boundaries and working, like or moving from Rome, told against the same. The church - like all churches - are naturally free from official inquiry by virtue of the Constitution, not to mention American constitution. The "mission" and "history" can accumulate many (religion find rising) without arising inquiry as to the same. They are free from the 9 to 5 routine expected of normal, political Americans, free to operate in relative isolation from the expected social milieu - matter, free to engage in extreme evidence or mission and free to have standing (for unmarked and unmarked people) as appropriate may differ. And when, as may be the case in some instances, there may actually be a line structure for the particular church,

—which, I now recall, was
THE ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH, or
something like that—

in THE UNIVERSAL
LIFE CHURCH

in THE HOLY ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(10)

one would have the most natural of raff-houses.

Let a few samples make the point. CRISMAN's background with the Air Force and Boeing before he takes up his unconfining "ministry" in the Boeing Company's backyard (Tacoma, Olympia). BECKHAM, upon his accession to "bishop" (and, apparently, following some time spent with CRISMAN in Washington) arrives in Canada — a place with which he has no previous discernible previous affiliation or contacts — and sets up his own obscure ministry (satellite, in passport, a high level contact officer at Offutt A.F.B. with whom he "is in business"), a ministry which — despite its obscurity — is sufficiently successful so that by 1962 he is driving a 1960 Dodge Charger. DAVID FERRIE, whose contact pilot-adventure affiliation with the Agency should no longer need elaboration, who by 1963 is not only igniting out of BANISTER's place (who, a year or so earlier, was helping to run administration of the New Orleans version of the Cuban Revolutionary Front), is not only a priest in the OLD ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH but has, to boot, the warranty supplied by the a priest's local contacts. And last, but hardly least, we have the handy old evangelical church at the scene of Tippett's killing, which provided apparent sanctuary for his murder — and not telling what cover and organizational-local value prior to the assassination itself... (Nor should we overlook the expressed affiliation of the perpetrator LAVERNE CHAPMAN with THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CHURCH OF THE FIRST BORN, whatever that is).

Anyway, there you are. You asked me if we had encountered a man named THOMAS BECKHAM. The preceding pages represent my answer. I hope some of these notes are of value to you.

I enclose a few random exhibits, with an itemized summary, which may or may not be useful to your operation.

JZ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CD-13-1

1

*Why don't we have a statement*Date 11/23/63*from Mr. Louis Rico? This says nothing.
But Commission Counsel asked about him. JS*

Mrs. LOUIS N. RICO, 4905 Magazine Street, lower rear apartment (899-4244), furnished the following information:

She stated she has resided at that address since October, 1962. She said that she was familiar with the couple who occupied the rear apartment at 4905 Magazine Street but never knew their name. She said that when she saw the picture of LEE HARVEY OSWALD in the newspaper on November 22, 1963, as being a suspect in the assassination of President KENNEDY she recognized him as being the man who occupied the rear apartment at 4905 Magazine Street from approximately June, 1963 until late September, 1963.

She said that while OSWALD lived at that address he never spoke to anyone and kept pretty much to himself. She said that OSWALD and his wife talked in a foreign language, which she believed to be Russian. She said that she worked during the day so that she did not see OSWALD very often and that when she did it was in the late afternoon when she returned from work. She said she recalls seeing a short, stocky, dark complected individual, who was wearing a dark business suit and looked to be either Mexican or Cuban extraction, enter OSWALD's home approximately three weeks before OSWALD vacated the apartment. She said that she did not believe she could identify this man inasmuch as she only observed the side of his face but was able to closely observe his appearance.

She stated that she also recalls seeing a woman who drove a station wagon bearing Texas license plates arrive at the Oswald apartment during late September, 1963, and load clothing and other articles into this station wagon. She furnished the following description of this woman:

Age	Late 30's
Height	5' 2"
Weight	115
Hair	Black (short)
Eyes	Unknown
Complexion	Dark (appeared to be of Spanish extraction)

On 11/23/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # 89-69

by SA JOHN B. LEE, JR. :sab Date dictated 11/23/63

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CO-75 41

1Date 11/23/63

CATHERINE SCHMITT, 4910 Magazine Street (TW 9-4956)
furnished the following information:

She stated that she did not know LEE HARVEY OSWALD while he lived at 4905 Magazine Street, but recognized his picture in the paper on November 22, 1963, as a suspect in the assassination of President KENNEDY and as being identical to the man who occupied the rear apartment at 4905 Magazine Street during the summer of 1963. She said that she never saw much of OSWALD and when she did, he was by himself. She said that OSWALD kept to himself and did not speak to anyone. She said that she recalled seeing OSWALD smile only once and this was when he was visited by an individual whom she described as follows:

Age	Unknown
Height	5'7"
Weight	160
Apparel	White shirt, dark trousers
Peculiarities	Appeared to be Spanish

She stated that she could not furnish any additional pertinent information regarding OSWALD although she believed she could identify this individual whom she observed talking to OSWALD sometime during the summer of 1963.

On 11/23/63 at New Orleans, La. File # NO 89-69

by SA JOHN B. LEE, JR. :dmm Date dictated 11/23/63

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For:
JG "4900" file

To: Bethell. Please obtain the N.O. States
story of 11/22/63 in which Eames practically
predicts the involvement of Oswald.
(Then return this for my 4900 Mag file)

D Compare with N.O.
States story.
(+ note mail comment)

CD-75 #1

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/23/63

1

ALEXANDER E. EAMES, III, 4903 Magazine Street,
(TW 9-4382) furnished the following information:

He stated he has resided at that address for approximately three years and is employed by the United States Engineers. He recalled the couple who occupied the rear apartment at 4905 Magazine Street from June, 1963, until late September, 1963, but did not know their name until he observed a photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD in the newspaper on November 22, 1963, who was arrested as a suspect in the assassination of President KENNEDY as being identical to the man who occupied the rear apartment at 4905 Magazine Street. He said that this man was not very sociable and did not speak to him or anyone else in the neighborhood. He said that this man generally sat on his lawn or on his porch reading. He said the man frequently wore his bathing suit. He said that he was under the impression that OSWALD was not employed inasmuch as he was around the apartment most of the time. He said that he often wondered what source of income OSWALD had. He stated that OSWALD apparently liked chicken inasmuch as he observed frozen chicken thawing on OSWALD's kitchen window sill several times a week. EAMES further advised that his kitchen window is directly opposite OSWALD's and that he had an unobstructed view of this window and OSWALD's kitchen. EAMES said that an alley of approximately 15 feet in width separated his kitchen window from OSWALD's kitchen window.

This is
hard to
believe.
→
Institutions

Miss try to
connect with
the fried
chicken.

EAMES said that he never observed OSWALD exhibit any guns. He said that he did see OSWALD in the main branch of the New Orleans Public Library on one occasion and observed OSWALD frequently reading on his porch and lawn.

He said that the only peculiarity he recalls about OSWALD was the fact that he never spoke to anyone and that when he spoke to his wife he spoke to her in a tone of a command and always in a foreign language, which he believed to be Russian. He said that the OSWALDs never had any visitors as far as he knew. EAMES further

Perhaps the reading
is what made him
suspicious.

On 11/23/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # 89-69
by SA JOHN B. LEE, JR. :sab Date dictated 11/23/63

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2

NO 89-69/sab

*Where did Eames see
Oswald receive it ??
(at his Postoffice
mail box?)*

✓ advised that he recalls that OSWALD always seemed to receive an abundance of mail. He said that he recalls seeing a 1957 blue Plymouth Station Wagon bearing Texas plates appear at OSWALD's apartment during late September, 1963, and observed a woman loading luggage and other articles into the station wagon.

He furnished the following description of this woman:

Height	5' 9"
Weight	140
Hair	Black
Peculiarities	Gave the appearance of being quite tall

He stated that he read in the newspaper that OSWALD lived with his aunt, a Mrs. MURRET of 757 French Street, New Orleans, before coming to this apartment. He further advised that he recalls seeing OSWALD doing his shopping at Winn-Dixie Supermarket, 4901 Prytanis, New Orleans.

A rather odd contribution. Why not make?

Re: KEENEY THORNTON

To: SCIAMBRA

Then To: ARCHIVES

TRANSCRIBED APRIL 24, 1968

INTERVIEW WITH PHIL BOATRIGHT CONDUCTED BY HAROLD WEISBERG ON
APRIL 3, 1968.

Q - HAROLD WEISBERG

A - PHIL BOATRIGHT

A. I'm PHIL BOATRIGHT from Omaha, Nebraska. Today's
April 3, 1968.

Q. April 3, and I'm HAROLD WEISBERG.

A. I was in New Orleans briefly several months from
mid-1962 until early January of 1963. During that
time I lived in the French Quarter.

Q. What was your address, MR. BOATRIGHT?

A. St. Peter Street. 935 St. Peter Street.

Q. And you also lived at 920 Royal Street?

A. Yes, when we first went to New Orleans, that would be
July of '63.

Q. July of '62?

A. Yes, I mean July of '62.

Q. And do you remember who owned these two buildings or
either one?

A. The one on Royal Street was rented from the Gondolfo
Agency, a real estate agency there. Who may have
owned it, I don't know, but they represented them.
The St. Peter Street building was owned by an S. B.
UDELL whose address in 1963 was 6245 Wadsworth Dr.,
New Orleans. He wrote me in January of -- this is
postmarked January of 1963 relative to some
furnishings that had been left in the apartment and
er, I've forgotten what the agreement was now but he
got a little upset about it. Apparently there was
some misunderstanding and some things were sold and
some things were returned. In any case that's the
fellow who owned the building so far as I know at
that time. He's the person to whom we paid rent.

Q. Do you remember the owner of the other building?
Or who managed either one?

A. The Gondolfo Agency managed the one on Royal Street.

Q. You don't know the other one?

A. As far as I know UDELL took care of that thing himself.

Q. At either of these places, did you see a young woman whose picture you may have since seen in the paper?

A. No.

Q. Are you familiar with the young woman Garrison tried to subpoena and she left the state to avoid subpoena, whose name came up in the testimony of PERRY RUSSO?

A. No. I might say...

Q. SANDRA MOFFETT. You were up here then but I thought it appeared in the papers.

A. It may have well been but I might say at this time that I'm not -- I don't follow the newspapers closely.

Q. Did you ever know PERRY RUSSO by the way?

A. Not to my knowledge, no.

Q. You have been for most of your life a writer and you do other things for income at times, is that a correct formulation?

A. Yes, I have been fairly widely published as a poet but I am not what you would call a writer in the sense...

(interruption in tape)

Q. I'm just trying to pick the dates you worked for him.

A. Yeah, I wish I knew. I think it was August or September. I didn't work for him terribly long. Of course, I wasn't in New Orleans very long.

Q. '62. And about when do you think you left his employment?

A. Well, I would say October.

Q. Of the same year?

A. Yeah.

Q. And you also did some promotional work for him at that time, didn't you?

A. Yes.

Q. Did KERRY THORNLEY work for or with MR. COURTNEY during that period of time?

A. No.

Q. Did he afterwards that you know of?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. You've never heard anything about this one way or another?

A. No.

Q. Do you know of his doing any ghostwriting for MR. COURTNEY?

A. No, at the time I knew KERRY he was working as a busboy at a hotel.

Q. Can you place the first time you knew him?

A. I've been trying to figure out how I met him.

Q. You met at the Royal Orleans?

A. I would not have been apt to have met him there. I probably met him at someplace that I went frequently, (the Bourbon House..)

Q. You could very well have met him there. He haunted it.

A. Most people did, in the immediate area there. I think but I'm not sure about this, but I think BRANDY met him first and she introduced him to me but I'm not...

Q. BRANDY is BARBARA?

A. BARBARA KERRY.

Q. Did you ever know THORNLEY to do any actual writing?

A. You mean published writing?

Q. I mean published writing or anything more than the one manuscript he seemed to be perpetually working on The Idle Warriors.

A. Yes, I saw a manuscript --- poetry, but that's all.

Q. What kind of poetry was it?

A. In my view it was very didactic verse which did not appeal to me. It was of the type that is fairly frequently published these days. Technically it wasn't bad.

Q. Was he fairly regularly employed when you knew him?

A. (As far as I know he was employed as a busboy at the Hotel during all the time that I knew him, which is not terribly long but he was there all the time that I knew him.

Q. Did you ever see him at COURTNEY's place?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever see him with people who you connected with COURTNEY's operations, either by having seen them there or by having known about it?

A. No, but you must -- if you don't already know -- I'll tell you something about COURTNEY...

Q. Was he then on Zimpel Street?

A. Right. He had more than one address, Green Street...

Q. I'll give you an example of what I mean, you never know when you start something what you will find and what it will possibly mean. A part of the story of OSWALD in New Orleans, is the finding of some handbills that were printed at the Jones Printing Co. on Girard Street, on Pine Street. The New Orleans police made a big thing about how close this was to the residence of a PROFESSOR REISMAN who believed in peace and therefore they thought he was a Communist. You know a strange thing, it was just as close to COURTNEY's address on Zimpel Street. I want there and you can walk from one place to the other holding your breath. That's how close COURTNEY and REISMAN live to each other.

A. COURTNEY had a Pine Street address.

Q. What happened to that building?

A. I don't know, I don't believe I was ever there.

Q. Was it a building or an empty lot when you were there?

A. I couldn't tell you.

Q. Do you remember if there was an empty lot as you looked towards COURTNEY's home on Zimpel Street facing it, Pine Street is to your left, and if you go down Pine Street to your right, against the back end of COURTNEY's property is an empty lot -- I believe the address is 1018 -- was there an empty lot there that you can remember?

A. The address I have here is 1018 Pine Street.

Q. That's for COURTNEY.

A. And then a 7819 Green Street.

Q. No Zimpel Street?

A. No, but I think that is -- I'm sure there was a Zimpel Street address, I don't have it though.

Q. It was his home address.

A. That's right. His home is on Zimpel Street. The Independent American was on Pine Street or on Green Street. I have Pelican Printing Company, 7819 Green Street.

- Q. Now there was a shed behind COURTNEY's home on Zimpel Street where he also worked, was there not?
- A. That I don't know. But I did visit his home.
- Q. Well on the left as you face the home is a shed in back, a rather good size shed, a rather good looking one. Maybe shed is the wrong word, it's a decent looking building. While you're looking in your address book, would you see if you have an address for KERRY THORNLEY?
- A. Yes, I have.
- Q. Let me tell you because I don't like to slip up on the blind side of people -- you also know other people of interest. BARBARA may not have told you.
- A. She mentioned some artist-type that I didn't know by name.
- Q. And other people and we'll come to them in the course of the discussion. That's why the address -- I'm very happy you have this address book.
- A. I have two addresses here for THORNLEY, one is crossed out.
- Q. That's as good as any.
- A. 717 Barracks and then 706 Dumaine.
- Q. I knew about the Dumaine Street address.
- A. This is the address I believe I visited. I was in his place once.
- Q. Did you ever know THORNLEY to live near Dauphine and Esplanade?
- A. Esplanade -- isn't Barracks Street the...
- Q. The first one from Esplanade.
- A. I was going to say that's close to...
- Q. Yes. BARBARA told me about a friend whose name she couldn't remember and people undoubtedly in New Orleans are getting that name now, of an art professor at Tulane. Do you remember him and his wife? Do you remember where they lived? I tell you what I've done. I've asked Mr. Garrison's office to have a photographer take some pictures of that area hoping it will refresh her recollection and yours. By the way may I ask you this. A set of pictures of people -- some of whom are involved and some are not. They are all mixed up so that you want be given only one kind. Would you -- if I were to mail those to you or if Mr. Garrison were to mail those to you with no identification at all, would you mind going over them and if you recognize

(From here on the questioning depends from HT, as practical matter)

any of them writing a brief account.

- A. Yeah, these are the people she's talking about. They lived on Orleans. FRED and that's his wife, BEVERLY. FRED & BEVERLY BAZLER.
- Q. 1031 Orleans.
- A. Right. They had an apartment in the upstairs.
- Q. Can you see the 1300 block of Dauphine Street from there?
- A. Well, let's see, Orleans runs crossways, that is parallel from Canal, doesn't it?
- Q. I can't remember. Let me tell you why, so you will understand, because again I want you to understand why why I'm asking you questions. This has to do with sadomasochistic interests. It has to do with their having seen, including young Negro men, go into a home there and there hearing lots of unpleasant noise emanating from it. Do you remember anything like that?
- A. No.
- Q. Well that sort of thing to a degree may figure in this. BARBARA's already asked you and gotten the name of one man named BRUCE who said he was -- he used to talk about it as I understand -- about being a sado-masochist. Now frankly my interest in him is what he can lead me to, not because he is a sado-masochist which I regard as entirely his business even if I find it unpleasant.
- A. Now the thing about the people in the Quarter is that they talk a lot. Whether or not the things that they talked about were things they engaged in is another matter.
- Q. Well I understand that JUDY who was his mistress or his wife did go around rather well bruised from time to time.
- A. She appeared to be -- for some reason or another, I don't know.
- Q. Now BRUCE was a professional thief in the Old French Opera House for purposes of identification.
- A. Professional thief -- well, I think that...
- Q. We can eliminate professional, if you prefer.
- A. He was a waiter -- waiters in those spots like the Opera House did engage in theft as BRUCE described it.

- Q. Do you remember -- he was a waiter when you got there and he was still a waiter there when you left?
- A. No, I believe he was unemployed when I first met him.
- Q. Was he employed there when you left?
- A. As far as I know.
- Q. Have you heard from him or of him since, or JUDY?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you remember the last name of either one?
- A. Yeah, BRUCE is no doubt in here.
- Q. While you're looking for it, could you describe him?
- A. He's medium height, approximate my build, dark hair...
- Q. When you say your build, you mean a little bit on the lean side of average?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. But not as tall as you.
- A. No, he wasn't as tall as I am. He had dark, close cropped hair, very, very napperly dressed, he took an extraordinary interest in his appearance.
- Q. What kind of clothing did he prefer, sports dress?
- A. Yes, but the trousers were his, he wore tight fitting clothes.
- Q. And how did he wear his hair?
- A. Close as I recall.
- Q. Short like mine or flat at the top?
- A. It was close pretty much like yours.
- Q. GI haircut.
- A. Except that his hair was quite black.
- Q. How about his eyes and his complexion?
- A. The color of his eyes I don't recall but his complexion was quite white, was that of most of these in the Quarter who didn't get any sun and yet it was not sallow, it was not unpleasant, very white.
- Q. Do you know his ancestry?

- A. No, that I don't.
- Q. Well, why you're looking for his name in your address book, I also understand that he and JUDY had a child that they gave away rather rapidly.
- A. I didn't know anything about that.
- Q. I tell you that in the form of a question to see if you did. Again, I understand that there would be no interference in what they regarded their enjoyment of life.
- A. That would be conceivable because they were in a sense pretty transitory people.
- Q. How much do you think he weighed?
- A. He weighed probably 140#.
- Q. Suppose I turn this off while you look for the address.
- A. I have it. BRUCE OWEN, the address is 1031 Royal. Again it was an upstairs. JUDY's name was ALLEN.
- Q. JUDY ALLEN.
- A. JUDITH.
- Q. What age by the way was BRUCE about?
- A. I'd say, 25.
- Q. And JUDY?
- A. JUDITH I'd say was younger than that. But it was hard to tell. She looked a bit older.
- Q. Do you know where either one came from?
- A. No, I used to know where JUDITH came from, she told me.
- Q. What does she look like?
- A. She's very extraordinary. Very gaunt in appearance. Unusually thin and gaunt looking. She rarely smiled. She was not unattractive.
- Q. How tall?
- A. She was a bit taller than BRUCE as I recall. That would make her probably 5'8".
- Q. Allowing for her heels, or did she wear flat heels?

- A. To my knowledge, she never wore high heels.
- Q. Was she heavy or thin -- oh, you said she was thin.
- A. Very, very thin.
- Q. Do you remember the color of her hair, if that means anything?
- A. Brunette.
- Q. How did she wear it?
- A. Usually in disarray, just down.
- Q. And how did she dress, neatly or otherwise?
- A. She dressed rather unkemptly.
- Q. Do you know of any employment she had?
- A. She was for a time employed but I cannot tell you where. I've forgotten now. I don't even know what type of employment.
- Q. Well, if you should think of anything of these people afterwards, I would appreciate it if you'd let me know. Or how I can find it. It's not because I think they've done anything wrong at all but it's because I think they may direct me to others who I am interested in.
- A. I'm sorry that I'm not...
- Q. Don't apologize. I think that you know without my explaining it to you that when these great events in life happen nobody anticipates them, after they happen the recollection of those with the clearest, most dependable recollection is inadequate and all of the things that we subsequently find might relate, at the time they happened we had no reason to remember. So I understand this.
- A. The majority of these people I found interesting but I was not part of the "in-group" so to speak. I didn't spend large quantities of time with them at one time. They were kind of characters to me and I don't mean that in a derogatory or sense, I just mean that they were a good -- their way of life was a good bit different than mine. I didn't criticize it necessarily but I had other things to do and I didn't spend a great deal of time with them.
- Q. I understand that. Let's get to THORNLEY. Why don't you just in your own words tell me what you remember of him and who he associated with regardless of the degree of intimacy of the association. Then I'll ask you more questions. By the way, BARBARA was not clear on THORNLEY's status and I want you to know what it is. He has been indicted for perjury. Allegedly committed before the Grand Jury. BARBARA discussed this with me after she spoke to you and I wanted to be sure that she

didn't leave you with a misapprehension. He has been charged with perjury and I presume eventually there will be a trial. He's announced he'll do everything he can to avoid going back to stand trial.

A. Is he still in...

Q. Tampa.

A. I read it in the newspaper.

Q. If there's anything that you know that might help establish his innocence of that charge, I want you to know that I really want it very much because my interest is not that of a prosecutor, although I am here representing a prosecutor. My interest is that of a writer and you know that.

A. I certainly will be glad to tell you anything about him that I know. As for his guilt or innocence of the charge of perjury that's something I -- that will come up in Court. But he is an exception of my relationship to the people in the Quarter. I knew him better than the others. He was -- he came around me quite a bit especially after BARBARA left around Christmas time and I was alone in New Orleans. I would describe him as a THOMAS PAINE type, he was a political pamphleteer type of individual.

Q. May I ask you a question intended to clarify that? Are you telling me how he conceived himself or how you conceived him?

A. Well I think the two are fairly close. He never mentioned this directly.

Q. Do you know of any political tracks he wrote?

A. No.

Q. Let me tell you again because my interviewing method is different of anybody elses. The only thing that I know of that THORNLEY ever published is a very slight book which is hardly a self respecting society and very sensitive about it. Major parts of that were contributed by other people. He it out by reprinting an edited copy of his testimony before the Warren Commission.

A. Oh, he did testify.

Q. And his testimony has great significance. That's the beginning of my interest in THORNLEY. And his book The Idle Warriors has never been published and the only writing that anybody I have talked to is aware of, until you mentioned these poems, and if you know where I can get copies of them, I'd like to very much.

A. These were manuscripts, I don't know if they were or not.

Q. The only writing I know of him showing anybody in the Bourbon House was part of The Idle Warrior which never got published at all. Some parts of it are included in his book OSWALD. This is why I ask -- you describe him as a political pamphleteer and I wonder if that comes from his talking or his writing.

A. Oh, definitely that comes from his talking. I never saw at any time any political writing that he did. He talked a good bit, however the ideas he had were not original, ⁱⁿ not politically minded, but by the same token I am not completely naive about such matters. He was a very energetic young man, a very vital sort of guy. He was very much taken with the work of AYN RAND, a novelist, and he would quote passage and verse, chapter and verse, from sections of Atlas Shrugged.

Q. It was his bible?

A. Pretty much so; it was an important book to him. This was something that he and BRANDY had in common. I had not at that time read the book. I did later and found it very interesting but he was greatly excited by this book and by the writings of this woman. And he was interested in this institute, a man by the name of BRANDON in New York City set up an institute that gave instructions on the principles of RAND, the Brandon Institute or something.

Q. What part does his interest take, do you know? Just an expression of interest?

A. Just a verbal expression as far as I know. Like most everyone else in the Quarter, he was a talker. However, he was a little bit more excitable and tense.

Q. Emotional, too?

A. In a brittle sense. He did not impress me as being a compassionate boy, I'm sorry to say.

Q. Do you think he's capable of violence under the act of this emotion?

A. I couldn't say.

Q. You saw any sign of it?

A. No, I didn't.

Q. You never saw him in a fight or pounding the table?

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Q. You never saw him in a fight or pounding the table?

A. No.

Q. Who else did you see him with at the Bourbon House or elsewhere?

A. The only fairly constant friend that I know of was another boy who worked at the hotel as well, the captain I believe. His name was VICK LATHAM. His address I have here, too. Some of these people I wrote to when I came back to Omaha. I received no reply from any of them. 937 Dumaine, I have here.

Q. When would that writing have been, after the assassination or before?

A. No, I think -- let's see the assassination was '63...

Q. You say you came back to Omaha then. You came here from New Orleans.

A. Yes.

Q. And you originate here?

A. Yes, Omaha, Nebraska.

Q. Any special description you can give of his relationship with LATHAM, they were just friends or..

A. LATHAM was a writer or wanted to be a writer. I did read some of his manuscripts. They were incredibly bad.

Q. Fiction or non-fiction?

A. Fiction.

Q. Was his thinking similar to THORNLEY's -- political thinking?

A. As far as I know VICK had no political commitment whatsoever.

Q. Who else did you see him with?

A. No one that I could say...

Q. You said that after BARBARA left New Orleans you saw more of THORNLEY.

A. Yeah.

Q. Where did you see him then?

- A. He'd come around to my place, the apartment there on St. Peter or I would meet him at the Bourbon House. Everybody met everybody at the Bourbon House.
- Q. I know. OSWALD was also supposedly there.
- A. Is that right.
- Q. And one of the people involved in this story who's been very helpful says that there was an introduction of OSWALD by THORNLEY at the Bourbon House. THORNLEY says otherwise. That would have been after you left. OSWALD didn't go to New Orleans where he was born, he didn't return until late April '63. Did you ever meet him other places than at the Bourbon House either by accident or by design?
- A. Not that I recall. We used to occasionally go over to the Coffee House.
- Q. Which one? ?
- A. No, I had been to the but I don't recall whether KERRY was ever there or not.
- Q. Did you sign the register while you were there.
- A. At the (RIDER) ?
- Q. Did you sign the guest book?
- A. I may have. I gave him a copy of my book.
- Q. That was to JACK FRASER? A slim fellow, very short spoken, who now wears a very short beard which he keeps neatly trimmed.
- A. I don't recall the name nor the appearance. There used to be readings there, I read there several times.
- Q. Did you ever meet THORNLEY at any of the discussion groups that used to meet in the Quarter?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you ever go to any of them?
- A. You mean political?
- Q. No, some of them were absolutely non-political. Some of them would tolerate no political discussion.
- A. No, I never attended -- the only discussion type thing I ever attended there was BRANDY and I, BARBARA and I both went to a literary type tea at someone's home, the New Orleans Poetry Society or something which is very clean but he wasn't there.

- Q. Did you ever meet CLAY SHAW at any of these literary things? You know he was a playwright, a successful one as a boy?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you ever see him around?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know what he likes like from the pictures in the paper?
- A. Again, I have to say I didn't.
- Q. Let me describe him. He's a man about 6'2" with tight grey curly hair, a very imposing, impressive man, baritone voice, has a reputation of being a homosexual, and his head now seems to jut forward on a rather thick neck. He's a stockily built man, wealthy man, a neat dresser. He ran the Trade Mart fairly well. He began as publicity director of the International Trade Mart.
- A. What did he do before that, do you know? The Trade Mart opened after I left.
- Q. The new Trade Mart opened after you left. There was a Trade Mart on Camp Street, I believe the 700 block. It's now called the Gateway Building. That was a 3-story building with a curving main entrance. And that was one building OSWALD picked for his rather ostentatious literature distribution. That's where he got himself arrested with several Cubans who came to break up this literature distribution. But SHAW's a man of culture. He's fluent in 3 languages, translates, and he's interested in plays. He wrote a successful one as a boy.
- A. I was just wondering, has he done anything else in the Quarter?
- Q. He lives in the Quarter. He's rebuilt a large part of it. He's rebuilt about fifteen homes and his own created somewhat of a stir when he put a swimming pool in and the Commission wanted to prevent that but in his courtyard he has a pond, a little pond, over the Vieux Carre Commission. He lives at 1313 Dauphine. It's a building that looks like it used to be a carriage house with the roof sloping towards Esplanade and the entrance is that way. I have a picture of it, I'll show you. Well, think about any other places you might have seen THORNLEY or anybody else you may have seen him with, regardless of how intimately.

- A. This is the French Market, isn't it over there?
- Q. Yes.
- A. He and I used to go over there occasionally.
- Q. Which of the two?
- A. The older one, it's called...
- Q. Cafe du Monde.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Did you ever see him recognize people there whom you know?
- A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. This is MR. SHAW's house looking from Esplanade and this is the front door.
- A. Red doors.
- Q. Yes.
- A. I'm afraid I haven't seen it. That I would recall if I had seen it.
- Q. I don't know how long that door's been red. These pictures were taken in '67. Here is a view looking closer to this house, this rather odd house, looking again from the general direction of Esplanade. And here is a closer view of the same thing.
- A. No, I'm afraid they don't mean anything to me.
- Q. Here's a different picture, do you recognize that? Did you ever go there with BARBARA? It's a spanish bar. It's not Casa.
- A. Casa de la Marina.
- Q. It's not that.
- A. No, that's the only spanish place, Casa Cuba or the Havana...
- Q. The Havana Bar.
- A. No.
- Q. When BARBARA first spoke to me she mentioned the Havana Bar and afterwards she said either I wrote it down wrong or she misspoke herself. That's why I was asking you while I had these pictures out.

- A. It was called Casa de las Marinas. A very wild place but a very interesting one.
- Q. It's one of the places MR. SHAW used to hang out.
- A. There were enormous quantities of people there.
- Q. I'm sorry I don't have the pictures. The Assistant D.A. who was with me when we were at BARBARA's took mine and his back to New Orleans. I had a partial set. He had a complete set. So we'll probably be sending you copies of these pictures to see whether or not you recognize them.
- A. That would be-- I think pictures would stir my recollection better than anything else. Even the street names, I can't now in my mind give you a good blueprint of the streets in the Quarter.
- Q. Do you remember a man of the description I've given you at Casa?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you remember any homosexuals who were good size men there?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you ever hear anybody speak of or did you ever meet a man using the name "BERTRAND"?
- A. Not to my knowledge. Did he have a profession or a trade?
- Q. No, as CLAY BERTRAND he would not have. Part of the record of CLAY BERTRAND is befriending Latin homosexuals who got in trouble with the law. Garrison says and I agree that it's a name used by CLAY SHAW. That's why I asked you. I want to get back to THORNLEY and the people you saw him with. Were there any others?
- A. No, sir. With the exception of LATHAM. There was a girl but I don't recall her name.
- Q. JEANNE HACK? Her father was a professor, a medical professor.
- A. No.
- Q. He lived with her for a while.

- A. This girl I met a time or two I suppose at the Bourbon House or someplace. He -- at least as he described her to me, as KERRY described her to me, she was a kind of a temporary thing, for convenience. But this was true of so many people and so many situations in the French Quarter.
- Q. How about McCALLIFFE
- A. Oh, MARTIN McCALLIFFE's a pretty good and close friend of mine.
- Q. How about KERRY's?
- A. To my knowledge MARTIN and KERRY do not know each other.
- Q. But you don't remember seeing them both together?
- A. No. MARTIN is seldom -- seldom came to the Bourbon House. I don't think he cared too much for it. He did a lot of business at Brennan's in the Quarter.
- Q. He was publicity manager. He had political interests, you know.
- A. As I understand he did. But I don't know.
- Q. He had some Cuban political interests, too. Did he ever discuss any of these with you?
- A. No, he didn't.
- Q. Did he ever mention the Friends of Democratic Cuba to you?
- A. No.
- Q. Or Radio Free Latin America or the Information Council of the Americas?
- A. No. The only Cuban organization that I recall was a group called Cuban Students or something like that?
- Q. Yes.
- A. This I got through -- when I worked for COURTNEY.
- Q. Cuban Student Directorate, DRE. Did any of them come into COURTNEY's when you were there?
- A. No.

Q. Do you know which COURTNEY was in touch with? Let me simplify it. Was he in touch with the local group or the Miami group, or both?

A. DRE
= CIA The Cuban Student Directorate, this is the only group that I know about. They issue -- printed a newsletter as I recall, but as to -- KENT would say to me, for example, our informants on the Cuban Student Directorate have given us such and such information, I want you to put this in on say a speech. I did radio broadcasts for him at times.

Q. You mean you wrote the broadcasts that he made?

A. Yes.

Q. You didn't make them, he made the actual broadcasts.

A. He made the broadcasts. They were taped in the French Quarter someplace. But as to how he communicated with these groups, I haven't the faintest idea.

Q. Did you ever see any Cubans or any Latins with him or at his places?

A. No. The Independent American was not an open area, you understand. It's a home like but the door is always locked. Even when I went to work in the morning, I'd rap on the door and one of the girls, the secretaries, -- it was always that way. To my knowledge it was always that way. So that no one ever came in who was not directly associated with the newspaper or with the printshop, he ran a printing company.

Q. The reason I ask that is because I wondered if anybody brought these releases.

A. Not to my knowledge. An enormous quantity of mail was received, of course.

Q. Did you ever meet or hear of a man CARLOS BRINGUIER? He had been a lawyer in Miami but he was not practicing law. He was an official of the Court. And he had a general merchandise store catering to sailors on Decatur Street.

A. Do you recall the name of the Store?

Q. Casa Roca. It was near the Havana Bar & Grill, the 100 block.

A. I know where Decatur Street is. It's near the water.

- Q. Do you know where the Grad Printing Company is?
- A. No.
- Q. It was right there. It was just a door or two from the Havana Bar.
- A. No.
- Q. This was a rather strange thing that COURTNEY should keep his place locked up. And it indicates that he was preserving security or the concept of security for a reason. And this, of course, would remind you of the question BARBARA asked you about reference to agents. You refer in one case to the pamphlet, Labors International Network by Duburriere that COURTNEY printed. And the -- it carries the name of the Conservative Society of America which was his. Is there anything else that you can think of that would fit into the character of keeping the place locked all the time.
- A. No, I really can't imagine any reason because he didn't strike me as being overly suspicious in general, there was no password.
- Q. A newspaper is a rather public thing. Why keep it locked?
- A. The newspaper as I recall was available publicly.
- Q. That's why you publish it.
- A. Yeah. It was for sale on one of the newsstands down in the French Quarter even.
- Q. You have no knowledge however of why he kept it locked?
- A. No. I didn't ask him.
- Q. He had sources of information abroad.
- A. He -- I had no evidence that he did.
- Q. Where was DUBURRIERE located? In Paris?
- A. He was a -- he was sometimes in Paris. My impression was that he was a freelancer that traveled around and peddled his wares where he could. I don't mean that he wasn't a legitimate writer. I take that back, KENT spoke well of this man as being an excellent source. He traveled as I understand it through Europe and to my knowledge he had no address where he could be reached.

- Q. Do you know of any income that he had?
- A. The writer?
- Q. Yes, DUBURRIERE. What did he live on and what did he pay his expenses with, do you know?
- A. No.
- Q. What I'm really asking you -- I'll be more open about it -- is could he have seemingly fit the description of a man engaged in intelligence activities?
- A. Well, that's hard to say. I was trying to think whether or not there was ever any indication that KENT paid his expenses. To my knowledge there is none.
- Q. I wouldn't think of KENT paying his expenses as much as others paying his expenses and KENT being the partial beneficiary in the form of his writing. It would be so expensive, otherwise KENT couldn't pay for it. It costs something to travel abroad. And submit the pamphlet to something as small as the Independent American. That pamphlet couldn't possibly pay the expense of collecting the information in Europe, as you're well aware of.
- A. I wouldn't think so, it sold for less than \$1.00.
- Q. Even if it sold for a couple of dollars, they'd have to sell a fantastic number of them to pay just his transportation. So this man fits the general description of one who could be engaged in intelligence. And that's why I was just wondering. Because there are a number of such things throughout this story and there'd not as definitive as I'd like them to be but they exist as suspicions.
- A. Now let me ask you, what part could, COURTNEY, for example, play in such a...
- Q. I have no reason to believe that he played any part but what I'm trying to do is eliminate, like I told you before, it may be before we started taping, about the finding of these leaflets that OSWALD was giving out near COURTNEY's.
- A. Oh, yes, you did mention that.
- Q. I have no reason to believe that OSWALD and REISMAN knew each other, maybe they did. But the Commission ostentatiously did not produce REISMAN as a witness. And I presume that those pamphlets were planted and MR. REISMAN's politics were not the kind that MR. COURTNEY would find most congenial.
- A. No, COURTNEY would not be regarded, at least in present day as being a peace...

- Q. That's right. He's a rightest.
- A. I don't think under any even then you could say he..
- Q. That's right. So I don't know where these things fit but I want to find if they do and if they do, how. That's why I ask these things about DUBURRIERE. Did you ever see him?
- A. No, not to my knowledge, he never visited. No one visited the Independent American who was not on the staff to my knowledge, with the exception of KENT's brother who did also work for him. I believe -- KENT's brother is a lawyer, I believe.
- Q. Yes, he just ran for office. He didn't do very well. I was there election night.
- A. He came in to talk one day with KENT about a strike that was occurring there in New Orleans. I don't remember what strike it was but I spoke to him briefly and I had a book that was being printed at that time and I needed a copyright form notarized and I believe he handled it for me. But no one else to my knowledge outside of the mechanical staff, the people who did the printing...
- Q. Let me ask you this, it's a little bit personal. A poet is not the kind of man who ordinarily gets to write propaganda for radio broadcasts, nor is he the kind of man that finds this writing very congenial. Did THORNLEY ever help you with any of that?
- A. My impression of THORNLEY's writing ability I'm afraid is that he couldn't help me on my worst day.
- Q. I quite agree with that. But the kind of stuff that COURTNEY wanted from you for these broadcasts is not the kind of thing you would ordinarily write.
- A. That's true. It's more KERRY's line.
- Q. You see BARBARA has a recollection of some writing connection between THORNLEY and COURTNEY. That's why I'm asking you these questions.
- A. I tell you -- this may clarify that. KERRY, as I recall never spoke about this job, the job I had with KENT, that is any interest he might have had in it but BARBARA told me --now where she got the information, whether KERRY told her this or someone else, I don't know -- that KERRY had apparently applied for this job. I got this job through an employment agency.
- Q. Do you remember the name of the employment agency?
- A. Yes, it's A-1.

- Q. That's what BARBARA seemed to remember and I think OSWALD also used it which doesn't necessarily mean anything.
- A. The man's name is HENRY LAROCHE. It was the -- I don't know if he owns the company or not...
- Q. I think that's the name BARBARA remembers.
- A. A very nice guy, he lives in the Quarter or did, up on Esplanade.
- Q. Where on Esplanade, do you remember?
- A. No, that I couldn't tell you.
- Q. I wonder if it was close to 1313.
- A. I was never at his home.
- Q. Close to Dauphine.
- A. He did live on Esplanade.
- Q. So KERRY applied for the job and didn't get it.
- A. Whether he applied through A-1 or whether he went to see KENT, I don't know.
- Q. But you got it through A-1.
- A. I got it -- the interview through A-1. But he had applied for the job and had been turned down. And it rankled with him. He wanted it apparently very badly. I can see where he would.
- Q. He was more in sympathy with COURTNEY.
- A. But he -- one thing that KENT seemed to place an awful lot of emphasis on was a college degree which I had even though it was not in political science, but THORNLEY does not...
- Q. He didn't finish.
- A. That may have been the difference or something else, I don't know. KENT is a strange fellow, really. He was extremely fair to me in all ways. He knew, for example, that I was a Kennedy supporter and...
- Q. Strange.
- A. And he did not -- I didn't of course go around carrying a poster or anything.
- Q. You didn't have to for KENT.

- A. I did not have to deny any sympathy with the present administration.
- Q. Let's get to how THORNLEY looked. I'm going to show you some pictures but I'm telling you in advance why. Because he dressed himself entirely differently in different periods.
- A. He was careless with his dress in regard to cleanliness, for example.
- Q. You mean unwashed, too, or just unshaved.
- A. Well, he would --- he never grew a beard or anything that I knew of.
- Q. Did he wear a stubble or anything for a time, two or three days from time to time?
- A. Yeah. And his clothing was sometimes soiled. His hair was always meticulously combed, interestingly enough. And he did not give one the impression of being a down-and-out or somebody who's been rolling in the gutter.
- Q. On that point, BARBARA said he is one of the few people she knew in the Quarter who never bummed anything.
- A. He did not. He did not. But this again is part of his political philosophy.
- Q. Suppose he wasn't always employed, what would he be living on?
- A. Nobody starves in the French Quarter.
- Q. Yes, but nobody goes without bumming either.
- A. I understand what you mean. Bumming, of course, is a real fine science down there. I don't know how he would live. He comes from California I believe. Whether he had family there who would send him money, he never spoke of them. He said he was from there cause he made a joke of being from, what is it, Nixon's hometown. I think he made a joke about it.
- Q. Did he wear his well combed hair short or long in those days?
- A. Well, medium. It wasn't as long as mine is now.
- Q. It wasn't as short as mine, which is pretty short.
- A. He used a sort of pomade or something. It was always, er ...
- Q. Slicked down.
- A. Yeah.

- Q. Did it ever bristle?
- A. What do you mean?
- Q. Short hair standing up but not necessarily a butch.
- A. No, I don't recall him ever having a haircut other than the one I described.
- Q. Did you ever think he looked like pictures of OSWALD you saw?
- A. No, never associated the two.
- Q. Many people see a resemblance. Let me show you a series of pictures of him. I'll try and give them to you in chronological order but you understand they may not be. Does that have an identification, it's from a New Orleans paper, isn't it? Do you see a date on it?
- A. Yeah. This is from this year, February 25, from the Times-Picayune.
- Q. Yes.
- A. From this picture I would not recognize him.
- Q. You wouldn't recognize him as the KERRY THORNLEY you know?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Let me show you another one. And this is from the St. Petersburg Times of February 22 of this year.
- A. That is a little bit more like him. He looks here as though he's trying to make some point or he's listening very unwillingly to some point someone else is making. He has a ...
- Q. There's a difference in the hair in these two pictures.
- A. That one looks like...
- Q. Yes, this one is longer, isn't it? This hair is not quite slicked back. He's got a little bit of a forelock. Were his eyebrows always that dark and prominent?
- A. No, they -- that's one of the things that causes me to wonder about both photographs. But this one is a little bit more understandable because this is shadowed...
- Q. The St. Petersburg one?
- A. Yes.

- Q. Were his eyebrows less prominent in those days?
- A. Yes, he's fairhaired.
- Q. One of these pictures gives you that impression. But his eyebrows in those pictures strike me as being rather more prominent than the ones I have seen of him. I will show you those pictures. Now here is from the Washington Post of February 22 of this year, a UPI picture.
- A. Now that I will not have called THORNLEY either. There we go, there he is. That looks very much like him.
- Q. We'll come back to this picture. It's an AP picture that was in the Times-Picayune of January 10, 1968. Now may I see this picture again to call something to your attention? You notice that in this picture and the other two I showed you, his hairline recedes prominently over his left temple. All four of these newspaper pictures. Now I don't know if (PART OF SENTENCE OR SENTENCES LOST AT END OF FIRST SIDE OF TAPE)
I had this picture which is a print printed backward to make his hairline recede over his left temple, the opposite temple. I did it for a reason. Do you have a sufficient recollection to recall whether his hairline did recede in those days or do these newspaper pictures all of which are more recent show a more prominent recession.
- A. My impression, and this is simply an impression, I cannot remember perfectly clearly, but my impression is that he had no noticeable recession in his hairline, more than say usual.
- Q. But you noticed when it's printed that way, and this is the print, it's fairly prominent. And the one that you reacted to so positively is really more prominent.
- A. It's his face.
- Q. His eyebrows are less prominent in that picture, aren't they?
- A. They appear to be. But these of course are wire photos and it's hard to...
- Q. No, no, that's not. That was made from a print. That one is a photograph. That is a photo. It's clearer and also larger.
- A. But that I would call THORNLEY. The recession here is not to my view terribly pronounced but maybe we have a different interpretation of what is pronounced.
- Q. Maybe it's because I'm a little bit more sensitive to that because it was one of OSWALD's most prominent features. Now this picture has a forehead rather prominent in the middle.

A. Yeah.

Q. That suggests, we're again talking about the AP picture, it suggests that if the hair were short, he'd have a very high brow.

A. Well he did possess something of a high brow. His hair was short but he combed it directly back and he had sort of a, what would you call it, a pompadour,...

Q. In the front?

A. Yeah.

Q. Prominent in the front. To a degree various of these pictures show that.

A. And he used, I don't know what he used on his hair but it looked as though it was some fixative...

Q. Did it glisten as though it was a grease?

A. That I can't recall. But it was never out of place, so to speak. Or coming down over his eyes.

Q. His hair was the one part of him that was neat.

A. Yes.

Q. And you've seen him with two or three days stubble, untidy clothes and looking unwashed?

A. Yes, his nails frequently were...

Q. Isn't that odd that he always had his hair neat?

A. Yes, it is strange. The nails were strange, too, cause he worked in a restaurant handling food but by and large he dressed better than the people in the French Quarter, that doesn't make him nattily dressed but he dressed better than the average.

Q. Did he talk much about his Marine Corps days with OSWALD?

A. He never spoke to me about OSWALD except in a letter which I cannot for the life of me find.

Q. I hope you will keep looking for it.

A. I took last night off in fact to go through things and attempt to find it.

Q. Did you note it in your journal?

A. Well, I don't know. I was just going to go-- that's why I have all these journals out here on the floor. I was going to go through them. The first two don't have anything about it.

Q. What period is covered by the first two? Let's turn the tape off. (pause) We've been talking while the tape was off about your journals that begin when in '64?

A. June '64.

Q. June '64 is your first one. And that was after you broke off your correspondence relationship with THORNLEY.

A. I believe it was. Yes, I believe the correspondence took place in '63. It was never extended.

Q. Could it have ended entirely in '63? Could it have gone into early '64?

A. It could have.

Q. BARBARA told me the story about your rather strong disappointment over a letter he had written to either the Saturday Evening Post or Time or something like that approving in a way the Kennedy assassination. And she seems to recall that this is really what caused you to rupture relations with him.

A. I do not recall the substance now exactly of the letter to the editor thing that appeared in one of the weeklys, Post, Look or something. I did see it.

Q. How close to the assassination?

A. I can't tell you. It was no doubt sometime after. But he had written me that some magazine had notified him that they would print the letter he had written and it was a long time after that I happened to come across it. I came across it by accident cause KERRY and I were not corresponding at this time. I just happened to notice his name at the end of the letter.

Q. That could have been well into '64 then.

A. Yes, oh, yes. As I recall the substance of the letter contained in the magazine, is that he was objecting to the idea that OSWALD was the assassin, I believe that he held that OSWALD was being framed. I'm not sure of the exact substance.

- Q. Do you recall any writing from him in which he expressed something less than dismay over the assassination?
- A. My impression is that, at least he verbalized in the letters, a very, very strong dislike for President Kennedy.
- Q. That I knew.
- A. And this is what caused me disgust and I didn't know how to respond to this sort of thing. I am not so partisan that I could not put up with somebody who opposed Kennedy. Obviously, I worked for KENT COURTNEY. But COURTNEY never showered the type of verbal abuse that KERRY did.
- Q. This was in a letter?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. This would have to be -- no, it wouldn't have to be, it was after the assassination.
- A. He never spoke of Kennedy in these terms when the President was still alive. I know he was not sympathetic to the administration at the time, the Kennedy administration.
- Q. I do which you'd go through your letters and get anything you have from THORNLEY.
- A. Yes, I will.
- Q. Because even the dates would be important, even just the fact of the letter, the postmark would be important.
- A. The only possibility that concerns me is the fact that I threw them away because of this reaction but...
- Q. I hope you didn't regardless of what they say. What I'd like to ask you to do is this. If you're reluctant to let me have the originals, xerox them and send me the xeroxes and just tell me how much it costs and I'll pay you back. But if you're not reluctant to let me have the originals, register them so there won't be any problem. And I'll make copies and return them to you.
- A. One thing I'd like to say relative to any written or printed information that is mine, my personal property, that I give to you or loan to you, if it is necessary to use it, fine, but under ordinary circumstances...
- Q. It will not be used in writing.
- A. That's something I feel very strongly about as an editor. Personal correspondence or correspondence

with writers I don't release.

Q. And over and above that, if it had any value, it should be a literary property. How about if I put it this way. I won't use it. I won't use it under any circumstances. If Mr. Garrison feels that he must, suppose I ask him to issue you a subpoena for it. The only problem, because this puts you under compulsion. The subpoena requires you. I wanted to eliminate even the remote chance of that, that's one reason that I came here. Cause it does attract attention.

A. Especially in Omaha.

Q. That's right. However, if in sometime in the future it's important to use one of these things to establish where THORNEY was or was not at a certain date, if you would prefer, I think he would issue a subpoena for it. Let's do it this way. You keep the original and send me a xerox and that way he can require a subpoena for a court process which should whenever possible be original. BARBARA said that he wrote you a postcard from Mexico.

A. Yes.

Q. May I see it?

A. I have not found.

Q. Oh, I must have misunderstood her.

A. I told her on the phone, I had not found it. That I remembered receiving it because the first time she called, she asked me if I had received any correspondence mailed from outside the U.S. and I said no, and I got to thinking about it and I remembered that he had sent me a postcard from Mexico, apparently Mexico City. The picture on the card...

Q. Was a Mexico City picture.

A. Yes, because this famous cathedral...

Q. Do you remember the date?

A. No, sir, I don't. That again, it may be that I still have it.

Q. The date again might be very important in the way that it might exculpate him.

A. I will certainly...

Q. You see OSWALD went to Mexico very close to the same time.

A. This would be '63.

- Q. Before cold weather.
- A. When BARBARA and I were in the French Quarter, this was the great cry, everybody was going to Mexico and very, very...
- Q. Waiters, too?
- A. Oh, everyone.
- Q. Busboys, too?
- A. Everybody wanted to go to Mexico.
- Q. But how many busboys went there?
- A. Very few people that I knew of went there at all but it's like many things in the Quarters, it was talk. That was one of the things that set me apart from those who professed to be writers in the Quarter. Everybody was writing something but it wasn't printed yet and it wasn't done yet. And they wanted to talk about writing and my feeling at that time was perhaps overly serious, I don't know, but in any case I wished to work at writing more than talk about it.
- Q. Before we leave the subject, let's see if there's anything that you can connect the receipt of this postcard with. Is there anything that happened about the same time that might help orient it in time?
- A. I was not living here. I was living in another apartment.
- Q. When did you move here?
- A. From January 10, 1964 to October 1, 1964.
- Q. You came here October 1, 1964.
- A. That's right.
- Q. And when did you move to the previous address?
- A. Probably January 10.
- Q. Of '64?
- A. Right.
- Q. And it was at that address that you...
- A. Yes.
- Q. Could it have been before that, '63 after you came up here? Do you recall where you lived before you went to the place where you lived January 10?

- A. Well, I lived on Nichols Street here for awhile. And then I lived in the Aquilla Court, an artist studio, in downtown Omaha here.
- Q. Could it have been one of these addresses? THORNLEY was in Mexico that I know of in '63.
- A. Is that right, well that wouldn't figure with this, would it? Well, it's possible, but my impression is that it was received when I was living down on 31st Street, a few blocks down the street here. Because I have a bulletin board above my desk and I remember putting it up there as sort of a memento, pinning it up on this board when I was down the street.
- Q. Is that the only place you had a bulletin board?
- A. No, it is not. When I was up on Nichols Street here which would be immediately after I returned from New Orleans, would be January of 1963.
- Q. Until when?
- A. I can tell, BRANDY could help you here, cause I stayed there until she left Omaha to go to Oklahoma City or Lawton, Oklahoma, which would be I think around May of 1963.
- Q. If she doesn't remember the receipt of the letter it would then mean it was after May of '63.
- A. Yes. Which would mean I was living either down on Aquilla Court, here in Omaha, with a painter friend of mine, or that I was here, cause I moved directly from the studio to this 31st Street address. The building...
- Q. Unless THORNLEY was in Mexico more than one time it would have had to have been after May of '63.
- A. There's another possibility. And that is the postcard was not mailed from Mexico. It was a postcard he picked up at one time or another. And because it had this illustration...KERRY was rather proud of his rationalistic agnosticism and this church, as you may know, was preserved by the revolutionary government in Mexico as a symbol of the oppression of the church. This was the reason he sent it. I've forgotten what the remark was he made on the other side.
- Q. It was a mark appropriate to that.
- A. Yes. And it was really quaint. This boy had the complete Ingersol lectures, for example, in his room. He had almost a 19th century view of the value of rationalism, like Thomas Paine, who said that in some scriptures, the angels give the tablets to the prophets and Thomas Paine said since I was not there to see this, I have the right to doubt it.

Q. Yes.

A. This was the kind of view that KERRY had.

Q. Do you remember anything else he went in? What other things did he get into in his letters?

A. I don't recall. There was an exchange relative to a poem of mine, a long poem that I had written in New Orleans shortly before I left which he liked very much. It has never been published and he did ask about this poem. I said if you want it, why instead of publishing it, I will sell it to you and you will retain the rights to it. Any reprint if I should want to put it in a collection some time, then you will hold the rights to it, you will be credited. And he didn't go for the idea at all. But he did like the poem. To my knowledge that is the only other thing that he talked about.

Q. Do you recall any references to Kennedy or to the assassination?

A. You mean in the letter?

Q. Yes.

A. Oh, yes. I kind of hesitate to say, because the evidence of the letter that may turn up, or letters, there are more than one, I think, two or three, may be different than my impression. But my impression is he was glad.

Q. That would not be unique because he and another man celebrated the assassination.

A. Certainly there was no remorse at all, no shock in the conventional sense.

Q. Did he ever refer to OSWALD in the letters?

A. Yes, he told me that he had been in the Marine Corps with OSWALD.

Q. He didn't tell you that in New Orleans? OSWALD had already defected, you see. And had then come back to the U.S.

A. He never mentioned OSWALD to me.

Q. OSWALD was back in the U.S. when you knew THORNLEY in New Orleans.

A. It's possible it seems to me that KERRY would not have thought it noteworthy until after OSWALD...

Q. He was writing a book allegedly.

A. Not on OSWALD.

Q. Absolutely.

- A. At the time I knew him?
- Q. Absolutely.
- A. Before he...
- Q. Absolutely. Before the assassination.
- A. Really?
- Q. The book is called The Idle Warrior.
- A. Yes, I remember the name. He mentioned it many times. I never saw the manuscript but ...
- Q. Very few people did.
- A. He was always going to show it to me but he kept revising it.
- Q. Everybody says the same thing. But he didn't tell you what the book was about?
- A. No.
- Q. Didn't say it was about a guy he knew in the Marine Corps who defected to the Soviet Union?
- A. Oh, wait a minute, yes he did, yes.
- Q. That was OSWALD. The guy he knew in the Marine Corps who defected to the Soviet Union.
- A. Well, I don't know that he said it that way but he did say it was about the Marine Corps that I remember cause we, of course, had both been in it. I, earlier, but yes, I remember him saying that, but he never mentioned to my knowledge, to my recollection, anything about OSWALD, directly, that is his name. Nor did he mention anything more about this book.
- Q. After the assassination he told somebody with whom he lived in New Orleans that he had been offered a fantastic sum for the final chapter by NBC but wouldn't sell it. From the way you're laughing that's enough of an answer from you.
- A. He didn't mention anything of this kind to me.
- Q. That's not what I meant. I meant is this in keeping with the THORNLEY you knew? That he would have turned down a large sum of money for a chapter of an unpublished book from a major element of the media, like NBC?

- A. No, he had the view toward money. It was a glorious thing to obtain money and he would have certainly sold it. That's my impression at least.
- Q. That's my impression, too. But I'm also suggesting that if he had serious intentions as a writer, to be used on NBC would give him a certain status.
- A. I think would have appealed to him as well.
- Q. Both of these things would appeal to him.
- A. That was my first impression when I read this note in the newspaper that he was -- I didn't know he was in Tampa, but he was going to be brought back to New Orleans, or might be brought back to New Orleans for trial.
- Q. I tried to help him on that. He wouldn't be helped. I went to see CLINT BOLTON. Did you know CLINT BOLTON?
- A. I don't think.
- Q. He's getting along in years, he has a reputation of being an alcoholic. He was part of the Chicago newspaper group in the '30's. He worked for for a while and he now has the record concession at Dixieland Hall. He acted as THORNLEY's agent. The dedication of THORNLEY's book may interest you. "To CLINT BOLTON who first told me, go home ya bum and write." And I tried to suggest to him that THORNLEY would inevitably be a subject of considerable interest to Jim Garrison following my own work on THORNLEY which was published. There was just a question of time before Garrison got to him and if THORNLEY were wise he would get together with me and we would talk. And if he were not quite that wise, he would still take the initiative of getting in touch with Garrison. He went there involuntarily. He did it in a very inept way. He went to Court without a lawyer. And the judge said to go, so he went. And I have no doubt that he lied. I have no doubt whatever that he lied which is a crazy thing to do. Incidentally, BARBARA said you told her you can imagine THORNLEY wanting to be...
- A. I was just going to say, I think that he would have enjoyed the whole thing.
- Q. You think he'd enjoy going to jail?

- A. Well, I think that initially he might regard it as being something that had to be put up with rather than compromise his principles.
- Q. But do you think he has a principle, a cause for him to be a liar?
- A. No, that I don't. I don't believe -- in fact when you mentioned this thing about selling, him telling about the offer to buy the last chapter, that struck me as odd.
- Q. That struck me as odd, too. Garrison's office believed it. That's why I made the point of it. They have every reason to believe that the man who told it is an honest man. But could this be the kind of bizarre thing he would have invented? Not regarding it personally as a lie but having another objective by it?
- A. All that I wouldn't know. But THORNLEY made, well I don't know, what other objective could he possibly have?
- Q. I just don't know.
- A. He would lie cause he believes that the end justifies the means. He believes that very strongly.
- Q. Do you suppose he could translate this into his political life?
- A. Oh, I'm sure that he did. That's one of the reasons that we as personalities never did develop into friends even though I was in New Orleans. That's why I say he was like Thomas Paine in the sense that he was a vitriolic writer. He believed in polemics and it didn't need to be necessarily true if it achieved the end that he had in mind. That's my understanding, that he was a polemist.
- Q. Do you think he could be associated with CIA type activities?
- A. I haven't any idea what CIA activities are.
- Q. I don't mean if he was a direct employee of the CIA and that's why I phrased it indirectly. From what you know of his character and of his beliefs, do you think that either one could lead him to affiliate himself to the kind of activities that the CIA sponsored rather than did themselves?

- A. No, I have no evidence...
- Q. Not one way or another.
- A. One way or another. My impression was that he would under no circumstances -- if he knew the government was involved -- he would not associate himself with the government because he felt that the government was a bunch of socialists.
- Q. You mean just the Kennedy government or any government?
- A. The Kennedy government at that time.
- Q. Suppose the approach to him was that he was going to be opposing this type of activity in the government. This is hypothetical. Suppose from what you know about his politics and beliefs, it would be something that would be counter to the government's policy on Cuba cause you may remember in those days there was a detente. You were in New Orleans at the time of the Cuba missile crisis.
- A. Oh, yes.
- Q. But BARBARA was uncertain whether it was the Bay of Pigs which she first thought or the Cuban missile crisis which it was. That was right after you moved there. Do you remember anything he might have said about that, by the way?
- A. No, I don't.
- Q. The end of October '62 was when it was settled. It was announced on the 15th of October.
- A. Oh, really. Well then that would establish a little more clearly my employment with KENT cause I was working on the Independent American when President Kennedy blockaded Cuba cause that's what cost me my job as far as I know.
- Q. Your attitude?
- A. No, the Conservative Society of America had set up this convention arrangement for Chicago and their big pitch, they were going to have Congressman Russo from California, they were going to have someone from Miami, their big pitch was that we should put an iron ring around Cuba. I have a copy around here somewhere of the radio speech to this effect that KENT made cause I wrote it. And then...

Something missing?

?

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- Q. What kind of person from Florida -- A Cuban?
- A. That's my impression but I'm not sure.
- Q. Do you have the files of the Independent American for that period?
- A. Well, yeah.
- Q. This is a file of your work at COURTNEY's?
- A. Yeah. How complete it is, I couldn't say. There is the blockade Cuba...
- Q. You see there's another interest these things have. We were talking earlier about the Cubans and then it would also indicate other things about COURTNEY. So this is why I said I'd like to be able to borrow it and go through it and of course I'd return it. And that would save time now.
- A. Well, er...
- Q. I'll return it insured. You see if you could distinguish from what's personal and what's
(BLANK SECTION OF TAPE)
- A. But those I knew were not overtly interested in politics, were not declaimers, were not intense people, they were more or less lethargic. They would not do one thing today if they could put it off until tomorrow. THORNLEY was not in my opinion like that. Of course, he was not native to that area. He was from California.
- Q. He wasn't native to Arlington, Virginia, which is Washington. And you find it even -- even more lethargy there because you see the government people are not as inclined to criticize everything. So in my own thinking, and it's only thinking, I have no specific knowledge I think he went there to be near the Warren Commission.
- A. That's quite possible. KERRY is an activist of a kind. A political activist of a kind, at least verbally. He is not however an intellectual.
- Q. I know that. Clearly he's not.
- A. Did you ever walk around in the daytime with him or at night? Did you ever go into the post office with him?

- A. No.
- Q. The postoffice on Camp, the old postoffice, opposite Lafayette Square where the Times Picayune used to be, they moved recently.
- A. The only postoffice in New Orleans where I visited, I picked up copies of my book that came from the printer was the branch in the Quarter.
- Q. I'm asking you if you ever went there with THORNLEY.
- A. No, I went there alone.
- Q. Did you ever know of THORNLEY having a postoffice box?
- A. No.
- Q. You never addressed him at a postoffice box anyplace?
- A. No. Even at Los Angeles, he had a street address.
- Q. Suppose I wanted to get in touch with MIM, first, do you remember her last name?
- A. No, sir, I do not.
- Q. Her husband was a pilot I believe BARBARA said.
- A. But that's been many, many years ago.
- Q. How old are they?
- A. She's maybe 40, 45. I don't -- she was living alone when we knew her in New Orleans. She spoke of having had a husband, whether or not there was a divorce or whether they...
- Q. You never knew her husband?
- A. No, I never saw him.
- Q. I guess it was BARBARA who told me her husband had been a pilot.
- A. He may have been. I think MIM was a pilot or a aviator herself.
- Q. How would one find her?
- A. It's everything else in the Quarter, everybody talks.
- Q. Where did she live then, do you know?
- A. Yes, she lived on -- Apt. 202, 638 Royal.
- Q. Did THORNLEY know her?
- A. Oh, sure, everybody knew her.

She made her living by sidewalk drawing and painting.

Q. In Jackson Square?

A. Anywhere. Dixieland Hall, Jackson Square, down on the corner of St. Peter and...

Q. Did you spend much time in Dixieland Hall?

A. I was only there once.

Q. Did you ever know AL CLARK who runs it?

A. No.

Q. Did THOMPSON, SCOTT or PATTERSON to your knowledge know THORNLEY?

A. Oh, yeah, but how intimately I don't know.

Q. But you know that they knew each other.

A. Yeah.

Q. If you can think of anybody else now or after I leave, interrupt me now or drop me a note of people who knew THORNLEY. I want to check everybody including if it's all opposed to what I believe.

A. In this little community in the Quarter, and it amounts to that, everybody knows everybody by name. And they don't know very much more than that.

Q. BARBARA mentioned FREDERICK and ALICE.

A. ALICE is -- FREDERICK first of all is her former husband.

Q. BARBARA's former husband.

A. Yeah. ALICE is FREDERICK's mother. I don't know what -- how those names fit, I don't know if she has something else in mind.

Q. I don't remember now the connection in which she mentioned it. But FREDERICK I think does a
for an oil company.

A. Yes.

Q. Was he in the Quarter then?

A. No.

Q. Then that is not relevant, that has no relationship to this. Now there was a movie being made with guys BARBARA thinks you may remember something about. There was a lawyer with it. Was it outside of CARLOS CASTILLOS'?

A. A movie?

- Q. A motion picture.
- A. Oh, yes, Toys in the Attic.
- Q. That's the name, that's right.
- A. BARBARA and I worked as extras.
- Q. Yes. Now there was a lawyer that seemed to run the thing.
- A. A lawyer?
- Q. She thought he was a lawyer, a rather well dressed man whom she thought was a lawyer. He seemed to have been involved in this, -- no, no, I'm sorry he was connected with something else -- but she seemed to think that he got himself in as an extra, too. She seemed to think that he was getting carried away with the motion of it and sort of letting it be known that he was without so having done earlier.
- A. None of that has any...
- Q. Doesn't ring a bell. Do you know if THORNLEY was connected with that at all?
- A. You mean working?
- Q. As an extra or any other way?
- A. No, I don't think so. I don't think he was.
- Q. Do you remember anything about a theatre group, started by a man who I think is this lawyer, a man who absconded with the dough.
- A. I don't know the man's name, I guess I did know it but I don't recall his name. I never did meet him. BRANDY was interviewed by him for a part, I believe, in the production was to be presented, the next production, which happened to be Requiem for a Nun. The play was not being produced at that time. The theatre was closed but on the marquee was an announcement. I believe the theatre was on Royal Street, I'm not sure about that. Possibly closer to the river, Decatur Street...
- Q. Do you know if THORNLEY had any connection with that?
- A. No, I don't believe he did.
- Q. Do you remember anything about the man who was organizing it?
- A. The production?

- Q. Yes, or the whole theatre group?
- A. No. Only that BRANDY was interviewed by him and it was a distasteful experience for her.
- Q. To be interviewed by him?
- A. Yes. But I wasn't present. She did not get the part.
- Q. She didn't give me any details about it. She started to talk about it and we got off on something else and I don't now recall what relevance she thought it had.
- A. This was relatively soon after we arrived in New Orleans because we were living on Royal Street at the time.
- Q. Now that CARLOS CASTILLOS which I have some interest in...
- A. CARLOS and his restaurant...
- Q. The very unprofessional business. This is his card. Mexican Restaurant, 620 Conti. Well from other people I understand that every once in a while he would close the restaurant and engage in political discussions with people when they came from Cuba and things like that. Does any of that sound familiar to you?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you remember anything about his letting the space upstairs for use by other people? Probably BARBARA mentioned this to you.
- A. She asked me if I knew of anyone living upstairs. I don't recall.
- Q. Do you remember any of the waitresses?
- A. There was one. Now wait a minute, this girl was very, very close to THORNLEY. What was her name? She liked him very much. And he had a tendency to treat her as an object of convenience. That was his view of women by and large. But I cannot for the life of me recall her name. I didn't know her well.
- Q. Do you remember what she looked like?
- A. She was a dark complexioned girl, Latin, I guess.
- Q. Rather good looking?
- A. Yes.

Q. Better educated than you might expect a waitress to be?

A. I would say that she had a greater sensibility and probably a greater intelligence. Whether or not she had had any formal education, I don't know.

Q. BARBARA seems to have had something like this in mind but she was unclear and she told me to take this up with you.

A. I don't remember.

Q. BARBARA's impression was that this girl was better educated than most girls.

A. Oh, yes, but whether or not she had formal education I can't say.

Q. Was this waitress close to CASTILLOS?

A. In a personal sense?

Q. Not as a girlfriend, but did they seem to get along pretty well? Did she pretty well know what was going on if anything?

A. They got on, I guess.

Q. If I wanted to find her, do you have any suggestion as to how I might?

A. Is CASTILLOS still in business?

Q. I have never taken the time to go there and find out. I've been intending to since November.

A. He might. On the other hand he might not. He's extremely volatile. He' ...

Q. I'm interested in him so I don't think I ought to ask him how to find her and I'll tell you in a minute why I'm interested.

A. Well, the only other thing, the only person I can suggest would be THORNLEY himself, he of course would know.

Q. How close was he to CARLOS?

A. THORNLEY?

Q. Yes.

- A. He regarded CARLOS as a character as far as I know. CARLOS is a very volatile, arrogant at times, very abusive fellow and then sometimes a very nice guy.
- Q. Did you ever hear him talk politics?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you ever hear him talk about smuggling?
- A. No.
- Q. Taking washers and refrigerators and things like that to Cuba?
- A. No.
- Q. Ever hear any talk about gunrunning?
- A. No.
- Q. These are things that I've heard about CARLOS. Who else did you see THORNLEY with at CARLOS' that you can remember?
- A. He used to come in to see this girl.
- Q. But he didn't come in with other people?
- A. Not to my knowledge. He was a loner.
- Q. BARBARA gave me the impression that he more or less hung around with you.
- A. Yes, he did.
- Q. He'd go out with you, he'd know where to bump into you, and bump into you and then disappear for a couple of hours and come back again.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. She seemed to remember him having fairly regular meetings with one particular guy about once a week.
- A. The only person that I know of that KERRY had a lot to do with was this fellow I mentioned earlier, VICK LATHAM.
- Q. Not LATHAM. This is a man who I think was somehow, somehow connected with the Cuban group but I'm not sure. BARBARA was never with him when he was with this man. But she just knows of his having met with a person. This is consistent with something else I picked up. That's why I'm wondering if you could remember anything of that sort.

- A. No, but I'll try to. Just like this postcard, I didn't remember it initially.
- Q. BARBARA told me that when you spoke to her the second time you told her about it.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you ever know a WILL CUFFORD BRADY, a homosexual who writes?
- A. No.
- Q. A JOE MOORE?
- A. No.
- Q. JOSE JOREON?
- A. No.
- Q. JOSE MORAY?
- A. No.
- Q. JOE DEERING?
- A. No.
- Q. EDWARD SCANNEL BUTLER, did you ever know him? He's somebody that CARLOS could have mentioned because I think at that time they were connected.
- A. No.
- Q. BUTLER was the Vice President, I think, the Executive Vice President of the Information Counsel of the Americas. Did CARLOS ever mention any of these names?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you ever hear of EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY? BRADLEY's not an uncommon name.
- A. (inaudible or no verbal reply)
- Q. How about a man MORRIS BROWNLEY. He was DAVID FERRIE's friend who I mentioned earlier. He's slightly balding. He at one time was on the hard stuff and now I think is only on pills. He kind of, when he gets excited he kind of bounces on his knees like he's an orangutan. Very intelligent young man. Thin, dark.
- A. No.
- Q. Did you know of any Mexican reporters who visited town when you were there?
- A. No.
- Q. Besides La Marina what other places could you have gone to with BARBARA?

- A. Oh, well, a lot of places.
- Q. Did I ask you about the Havana? Did I ask you if you had ever gone to Pena's Havana Bar?
- A. You asked me about that. To my knowledge we were never in there.
- Q. That's BARBARA's recollection. I must have written down the wrong thing when she called me a year and a half ago. How about the Galley?
- A. Oh, the Gallery, is it the Gallery? The Unicorn Gallery or something where they were painting?
- Q. There was a bar at one time called the Open Galley, The Old Galley. It has no sign out.
- A. I don't recall that.
- Q. How about Lafitte's?
- A. I don't believe I was ever in Lafitte's. I know where it is.
- Q. Casimos'?
- A. Oh, yes, I was in there once myself.
- Q. Only once?
- A. Yeah, alone, that's a homosexual bar.
- Q. That's correct.
- A. And I, frankly, was very uncomfortable by the atmosphere. I went in and had a drink and left.
- Q. There was a place called Mom's Society Page of the same kind, have you ever been there?
- A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. Mom's quite a character.
- A. That place is crowded with characters, the French Quarter.
- Q. Did you ever hear of a guy named JIM POOLE or a guy called TIGER JOE?
- A. No.
- Q. One called The BULLDOG? Or GUY BANISTER, he had a detective agency.
- A. No.

- Q. Did you ever walk with THORNLEY in the general neighborhood of Lafayette Square?
- A. That's outside the Quarter, isn't it?
- Q. Yes, but not far.
- A. To my knowledge KERRY and I were never together outside the French Quarter.
- Q. BILL DALZELL?
- A. No.
- Q. CARLOS could have mentioned his name. He was one of the organizers of the group that CARLOS got interested in. He was a man with a remarkable facility in languages. He could speak an almost endless number as a native. Whatever language he spoke he had the proper accent for it. He was an Indian. For a while he lived with BETTY PARROT.
- A. No.
- Q. You don't know BETTY PARROT?
- A. No.
- Q. MANUEL GIL?
- A. No.
- Q. FRANK BARTES?
- A. No.
- Q. SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH? He ran the Cuban Revolutionary Counsel for a while.
- A. No.
- Q. Another one who succeeded him is, I'm sorry, a different group at the same time, a little bit later, RUDOLPH RICHARD DAVIS, RICHARD RUDOLPH DAVIS, RICARDO DAVIS.
- A. No.
- Q. Did I ask you before if you ever knew CARLOS BRINGUIER? I think I did.
- A. No.
- Q. He has a store on Decatur Street.
- A. You mentioned the print shop.

- Q. Next to, in front of the print shop and then next to it.
- A. No, I don't believe.
- Q. He ran the Cuban Student Directorate in New Orleans. The same group that COURTNEY had a connection with.
- A. That's interesting, you know. Because KENT never mentioned to me or implied that there was this organization, or a branch of this organization in New Orleans.
- Q. If you want to be more fascinated, it was he who went out and picked this fight with OSWALD and got OSWALD arrested and I think that what OSWALD did makes sense only as part of the establishment of an intelligence cover. He then took his publicity and went down to Mexico to the Cuban Consulate and said see what a good conrad I am, how about giving me a visa. So my interest...
- A. Was COURTNEY in the complaint against the...
- Q. No, no, COURTNEY had no complaint, BRINGUIER is the man who precipitated this raucous with OSWALD. OSWALD appeared at his place of business right before that to offer to train commandos. Did you ever know a girl named RUTHIE in the Quarter whose father was a very prominent lawyer?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you ever bump into DEAN ANDREWS? Do you know who he is? He's a short, rolly-poley lawyer with a tremendous love for jazz and he blows a pretty hot clarinet himself.
- A. DEAN ANDREWS.
- Q. DEAN ANDREWS. He's one of the few lawyers who would take the cases of homosexuals.
- A. I don't place the name.
- Q. Speaking of homosexuals, do you know one who is kind of mature and responsible in the Quarter who I might talk to and who I might expect fairly straight answers from? I'll tell you frankly why. I want to tap the information they have. And they have of course quite a self defense problem and they're afraid of fuzz generally. Garrison is the last District Attorney they want to be afraid of but aside from that not only do they know things but in addition to that I want some kind of a good connection with them so that when the OSWALD part of the frameup falls apart, they won't be the next set of goats. Because the two most likely groups

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are homosexuals, per se, and Cubans, per se.

A. You mean for the assassination?

Q. Yeah. And they may be unwilling to believe that but believe me it is so.

A. No, sir. I don't have anybody...

Q. Did you ever know CARLOS QUIROGA, a younger man.

A. (BLANK SPACE IN TAPE)

Q. We were talking about artists when we were having a bite to eat. DICK HOFFMAN. Did you know DICK from after his marriage to PATRICIA or did you know PATRICIA?

A. (inaudible)

Q. The girl that he was associated with, that is when you first knew him, they were ...

A. They were not married.

Q. Yes, in the legal sense, but they were friends.

A. Yeah. I don't know, I knew of his association with no other woman.

Q. Can you tell me something about the woman that you knew him with, who did some typing? I'll tell you what I'm driving at. When we were having lunch, you were talking about her having typed a manuscript of a book for MARTIN ~~MCCULLUS~~ McCALLIFFE

A. She did some typing from MARTIN mostly out of kindness by MARTIN, she was not an especially good typist but she found difficulty supporting herself, making any money, but MARTIN, I don't know how MARTIN had met her, but he let her do some typing for him, that's what it amounted to, in order to pay her something. I was trying to think of the name of that book but I've forgotten. I don't know if it was ever published or not.

Q. Do you remember the subject?

A. I think it was a book about New Orleans. I don't know.

Q. Something we didn't talk about. Did you know RAY BURG? For a short period of time he was a book publisher and he had a manuscript that someone else thought I should read called The Day The Eagle Died.

A. No, I don't recall the name or the title.

- Q. And you suggested that MIM was outside either working or selling her paintings.
- A. That's what she used to do.
- Q. Who were her closest friends to whom I might go looking for her?
- A. I think anybody in the Quarter who is there now who was there then. You know LARRY who runs Preservation Hall, he could tell you where she is if she's still in the Quarter. BERNSTEIN or BARNSTEIN, the guy who runs or did run Preservation Hall on St. Peter Street. There's a gallery called the Starving Artists, Inc., on St. Peter and Bourbon. Anybody there could tell you where she lives if she's still in the Quarter.
- Q. Did you ever know JOHN DODT? He threw kind of fancy parties.
- A. No.
- Q. IVAN HOFFMAN, also an artist.
- A. (No audible comment)
- Q. BOOTSIE GAY, she was gay and she had a gallery of sorts. Came from a good Southern family.
- A. Do you remember the name of the gallery?
- Q. Sorry to say, I don't.
- A. The name is not familiar. HOFFMAN used to hang around with, by the Unicorn Gallery next to the Bourbon House.
- Q. Did you ever know ROGER LOVIN?
- A. I don't think.
- Q. Did you ever know a WALTER CRAB?
- A. No.
- Q. I'm trying to think of another man that you might know and his name won't come to my mind. Did you ever spend much time at the Court of Two Sisters?
- A. No, but I knew where it was. I think I either applied or was going to apply for a job there as a waiter. The only time I was in there for any length of time was when I had dinner in there once. We went to the Court of Two Sisters to eat when we were working as extras.
- Q. They treated you?
- A. Yes, the movie company took us.

Q. Did you ever see THORNLEY there?

A. No. The Court of Two Sisters is of no interest to me. That's a common tourist spot. We ate at the-- there's a Chinese place on Bourbon Street called -- I don't know what it's called now -- we'd eat there or the Bourbon House occasionally but there food was pretty wretched. Occasionally after we left the Casa nextdoor on Decatur Street there's a Chinese place nextdoor, a pretty rough spot.

Q. Did you see any Cubans at those places?

A. There are a lot of Latins, I don't know if they were Cubans or not, it was a Latin spot. One guy whose name I've forgotten who struck up a conversation was a Guatemalan who told me that political conditions made it advisable that he leave. Hell, political conditions change daily, so I don't know what he meant by that.

Q. Are homosexuals prominently at La Casa?

A. No more so than I imagine than in the Quarter, they're quite prominent in the Quarter. For the most part...

(END OF TAPE)

U. FRAMES LEAD - for Follow-up

8/1/77

NOTE: This was an anonymous call-in to the police recording phone. However, the details are quite specific. Subjects mentioned may have info re SHAW or FERRIE - or re their relationship. Should be checked out.

Code-A-Phone
January 31, 1968

Re: SHAW

Re: FERRIE

"O.K. I would like to direct this to either the District Attorney's Office or the Intelligence Unit of the New Orleans Police Department. The information I am about to give is confidential, of course, that's why I am calling this number. However, all this information is not only true but correct, and can be verified by just a small amount of investigation which I'm sure the New Orleans Police Department will give this information.

There are 2 subjects that I feel Mr. Garrison has over looked in his recent probe of the Kennedy Ass assassination which would be of utmost interest to him. I'm going to give the 2 names: First subject is a subject by the name of DERIS E. THOMPSON, who lives at 521 ST. LOUIS STREET, New Orleans, Louisiana. This is in the French Quarter. His telephone number is 525-1380. Now this subject is a Geologist, and a graduate of L S U. He had been recently charged last year with murder on APRIL 12, 1967. Also another subject, his name is one CHESLEY, however, he goes by the name of ROGER SOLIEAEN (I believe this is the spelling). This subject is a school teacher at JOHN CURTIS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL in Metairie. He rooms with this subject THOMPSON. Both these subjects are homosexuals - this is a fact - they are both homosexuals and have been living together for years. This killing, murder - what ever you want to call it, took place at 1435 NO. JOHNSON STREET on April 12, 1967. DERIS E. THOMPSON was charged with murder. Their part in the Kennedy Assassination plot - both these subjects, I know for a fact as very close intimate friends with MR. CLAY SHAW. I have seen them go into his apartment in the French Quarter on numerous occasions and were constantly with this subject so its a fact. To state further would be the fact that both these subjects possess a large number of firearms and explosives

aswell. Mr. Thompson owns over 150 hand guns - by hand guns I mean pistols and revolvers plus a number of high power rifles - plus explosives at this address at 521. Explosives in the form of half sticks of dynamite. Now another interesting fact is that not only do they hang with Mr. Clay Shaw but he knows them very well and they have gone to his apartment numerous times. Both these subjects were also well known to MR. DAVID FERRIE up on Louisiana Avenue. If you would check Mr. Thompson's personal phone book you find Mr. Ferrie listed as well as Mr. Clay Shaw; so I think both of these would be of interest. SOLIEAEU is a W/M approx. 30 yrs. while THOMPSON is 33 yrs. They spoke on occasions to great detail about the Kennedy Administration.

If you do a small amount of investigation which I'm sure that the New Orleans Police Department will do - as they have in the past. You will uncover a great deal of facts which will help Mr. Garrison as well as the Intelligence Unit."

"Thank You For Your Cooperation....."

"This is the same party that called earlier about those 2 subjects at 521 St. Louis Street. I would also like to report that I failed to give some information that both these subjects are members of an organization called SPARTICIST ASSOCIATION. They make these meeting once every 2 or 3 weeks - they are familiar with several of the leaders of this organization. It should be interesting to note that being homosexuals and living in that apartment together for several months before living at this address they lived at 1435 NO. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ JOHNSON STREET. They lived there together for approx. 3½ years in the same bedroom. A good description of THOMPSON would be approx. 5'11", 160 lbs. black headed and blue eyes. ROGER SOLIEAEU is approx.

5'11", 165 lbs. black headed and blue eyes - he teaches at JOHN CURTIS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL which is a Christian school for boys and I'm sure as a homosexual, he's at a very good place where he can make several contacts with the younger boys. I find that the owner of John Curtis School himself is a homosexual. I wonder if any of the parents of these children know the caliber of men not only teaching at this institution but the people who actually own it themselves. THOMPSON, I believe, is on parole or probation with that local chapter here in New Orleans on Royal Street; and I'm sure if you check with him he would be able to tell you quite a bit of other information. He does have a large amount of hand guns and has loaned these guns out at times to certain characters who were not of the best character. So if you put out an investigation - especially about the explosives - I am sure it will yield you the benefit of your trouble. I am hoping to see an investigation come forth. "

"Thank You Again For Your Trouble & Your Help....."